



Partisan control determines how states act on voting rights

By CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — New York voters for years have experienced some of the longest wait times in the nation on Election Day. Attempts to fix the problem routinely became casualties of the divided politics of the state Legislature. That dynamic changed last November, when Democrats won majorities in both legislative chambers, and it didn't take them long to act. Just weeks into this year's legislative session, they passed a bill to allow early voting, and Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo promptly signed it. "Early voting is going to make a significant difference for countless numbers of New Yorkers by making polling places so much more accessible and allow voters to determine when it is most convenient for them," said Susan Lerner, executive director of Common Cause New York.



In this Thursday, Jan. 24, 2019, file photo, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, left, and actor Ben Stiller shake hands after the governor signed a bill into law to allow for early voting, in New York.

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Partisan control determines how states act on voting rights

Continued from Front

New York is among a small number of states where Democrats made big gains in last year's election and have used that power to pass laws to make it easier to register and to vote. They have introduced early voting, all-mail voting or automatic registration.

A few Republican-led states — some of which saw high turnout for Democratic candidates — are going in the opposite direction, advancing bills to tighten voter registration and early voting.

"Some of this seems like a fairly direct response to things that happened in the midterms," said Max Feldman, who tracks voting laws at the Brennan Center

for Justice at New York University's School of Law.

In New Mexico, Democrats not only expanded their majority in the state House but also claimed the governor's mansion after eight years of GOP control. By March, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham had signed a law to allow people to register and vote on the same day beginning in 2021. Previously, registration ended 28 days before an election.

Hawaii lawmakers approved legislation replacing the in-person voting system with one made up entirely of mailed ballots. If the measure is signed into law, the state will join Colorado, Oregon and Washington with mail-only voting. Delaware approved in-person, early voting beginning in

2022. While bills increasing voter access this year far outnumbered those seeking to impose restrictions, many of the expansion bills were put forward by Democratic lawmakers in states led by Republicans. That means they are unlikely pass. In the 2018 elections, Democrats nearly doubled to 14 the number of states in which they control the governor's office and both legislative chambers, but Republicans remain in charge in more states — 22. While some voting reforms such as automatic registration have drawn bipartisan support, Republicans generally have opposed same-day registration, mail-only voting and other changes, saying they increase the potential for fraud.



In this Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019, file photo, U.S. Rep. Ben Ray Lujan, of New Mexico, at podium, addresses the state Legislature in Santa Fe, N.M.

Associated Press

In Connecticut, Republicans recently thwarted a push by Democrats to do as New York did and add in-person, early voting. Democrats have a legislative majority there, but a constitutional amendment is required to make the change, and they fell short of garnering the votes necessary to put the issue on the ballot.

Republicans had expressed concern that early voters might come to regret their selections if a race's dynamics shifted after they had turned in their ballot. GOP lawmakers in some states also have targeted groups that register voters. They say such groups can create a burden for local election officials if they turn in large numbers of forms that are incomplete or contain false information. In Tennessee, Republican Gov. Bill Lee signed a law that allows for fines against groups turning in 100 or more incomplete registration forms in a year.

"This bill was presented because of actual circumstances that were meant to confuse the integrity, or to create a lack of integrity, in the voting process," Lee said.

Critics say Tennessee's Republicans feel threatened by an increase in voter participation last year. In 2018, turnout in the state was 51 percent higher than in the previous midterm election. About 259,500 new voters registered in the six months before Election Day.

"What politicians should be doing is making sure that local election officials have the adequate resources to do their jobs," ACLU attorney Sophia Lakin said in announcing a federal lawsuit challenging the new law. "Silencing civic groups' voices is not the solution."

In Texas, where Democrats picked up two congressional seats last year, lawmakers have been considering a bill that would make it a felony rather than a misdemeanor to knowingly put false information on a voter registration form. It would also increase scrutiny of those who provide transportation for voters headed to the polls.

Voter-suppression claims also have been made against Republicans in Florida, over a constitutional amendment voters approved last year that would make it easier for convicted felons to regain the right to vote.

Republican lawmakers, in drafting legislation to implement the amendment, said its language about felons having to complete "all terms of their sentence including parole or probation" also meant paying all court fees, fines and restitution before being eligible to vote. "This measure is nothing but a poll tax that would effectively disenfranchise those who are unable to pay," Rep. Marcia L. Fudge, an Ohio Democrat, said during a recent congressional hearing in Florida. □

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Bishop faces backlash after tweet about Pride Month

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Rhode Island's Roman Catholic bishop on Sunday defended a tweet urging Catholics to not support or attend LGBTQ Pride Month events, saying it was his obligation to teach the faith "clearly and compassionately, even on very difficult and sensitive issues."

Diocese of Providence Bishop Thomas Tobin sparked a backlash beginning Saturday when he tweeted, "A reminder that Catholics should not support or attend LGBTQ 'Pride Month' events held in June. They promote a culture and encourage activities that are contrary to Catholic faith and morals. They are especially harmful for children." The posting spurred rebukes by thousands of people who replied on Twitter, including actresses Mia Farrow and Patricia Arquette. Many invoked the scandals of clergy sexual abuse of children in the church. "This is pure ignorance & bigotry," Farrow wrote. "Ignore this hate-filled hypocrite. His mind set leads only to suffering. He brings to mind those priests who molested my brothers. Of COURSE we should embrace our LGBTQ brothers and sisters and children. Jesus spoke of love." Arquette tweeted, "Shame on you. LGBT kids are thrown out on the streets and abandoned because of poisonous thinking like yours."

The diocese on Sunday released a statement by Tobin.

"I regret that my comments yesterday about Pride Month have turned out to be so controversial in our community, and offensive to some, especially the gay community," Tobin said. "That certainly was not my intention, but I understand why a good number of individuals have taken offense. I also acknowledge and appreciate the widespread support I have received on this matter." Tobin added that he and the Catholic Church have "respect and love for members of the gay community."

"As a Catholic Bishop, however, my obligation before God is to lead the faithful entrusted to my care and to teach the faith, clearly and compassionately, even on very difficult and sensitive issues," he said.

As of Sunday afternoon, 69,000 people had replied to the tweet, about 15,800 liked it and nearly 4,700 retweeted it. Many of those who replied supported the bishop. "Jesus never said a word about homosexuality, about Pride, or the Queer community," the group's president, Joe Lazzerini, said in a statement. "Rhode Island Pride respectfully calls on Bishop Tobin to do some self-reflection as the majority of Catholic Rhode Islanders in this state reject the idea that to be Catholic is to be complicit to intolerance, bigotry, and fear. "Bishop Tobin doesn't represent the majority of Rhode Island Catholics who support the LGBTQIA+

community in Rhode Island," he wrote.

Tobin is a conservative bishop who has said that he was aware of incidents of sexual abuse reported to church officials while working in Pennsylvania, but that it wasn't his job to deal with them. He was auxiliary bishop of Pittsburgh from 1992 until 1996. A Pennsylvania grand jury report last year detailed decades of abuse and cover-up in six dioceses, including the Pittsburgh diocese. □



In this Nov. 22, 2009 file photo, Roman Catholic Bishop Thomas Tobin speaks to a reporter in Riverside, R.I. In this Nov. 22, 2009 file photo, Roman Catholic Bishop Thomas Tobin speaks to a reporter in Riverside, R.I.

Associated Press



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Impeachment hangs over Trump, top Dems want public support



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., center, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., right, and other congressional leaders, react to a failed meeting with President Donald Trump at the White House on infrastructure, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, May 22, 2019. From left are House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chair Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., Pelosi, House Majority Whip James E. Clyburn, D-S.C., and Schumer.

Associated Press

By LISA MASCARO
AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The threat of impeachment hangs over the White House, but it also vexes House Democrats wary of taking next steps against President Donald Trump without broader public support.

Leading Democrats provided a snapshot Sunday of the party wrestling with the impeachment questions posed by special counsel Robert Mueller's findings in the Russia inves-

tigation. One top leader, Rep. Jim Clyburn of South Carolina, the Democratic whip, said the president may well face an impeachment inquiry in the House. Another, Rep. Adam Schiff of California suggested it's not likely soon, if at all. Speaker Nancy Pelosi has stopped short of pursuing an impeachment inquiry against Trump despite an increasing number of lawmakers, including some 2020 presidential contenders, clamoring to do so. She's wary of embarking on a politically divisive debate that she worries would all but drown out the House's policy agenda and campaign promises. Lawmakers heard mixed views during a recess week back home and Pelosi faced those favoring impeachment during the weekend California Democrats' party meeting. Instead, six House committees are probing deeply into Trump's business dealings, his running of the government and whether or not the president obstructed Mueller's investigation. "What I have said time and time again is, Mueller has developed the grounds for impeachment. The House has to determine the timing for impeachment. There's a big difference," Clyburn said on CNN's "State of the Union."

"We are trying to take our time and do this right," Clyburn said. "So I don't see this as being out of whack with what the people's aspirations are." Schiff, the chairman of the Intelligence Committee, signaled the House may ul-

timately decline to pursue impeachment.

"I think if it is a close call, close calls go against putting the country through that," he said.

Schiff still wants Mueller to testify, saying he has a "final duty" to appear before Congress, even though the special counsel indicated in a rare public statement last week he would prefer to simply have the report speak for itself.

"It's my hope that he will do so, and it's my hope that he will do so voluntarily," Schiff said. He did not indicate whether the House would try to compel Mueller's testimony with a subpoena.

The House is poised to hold Attorney General William Barr in contempt for failing to comply with a subpoena for a fully unredacted version of Mueller's report. Barr has separately been given new authority by Trump to disclose documents and information on the origin of the Russia probe, a top priority of the president and his Republican allies on Capitol Hill.

Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio, the top Republican on the Oversight Committee, said he, too wants Mueller to testify so Republicans can pursue their own line of questioning about the Russia investigation.

"I know this, I got questions for him," Jordan said on ABC. "Why did you wait almost two years before you told the country there was no conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia to influence the election?" □



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Q&A: Possible closure of Missouri's lone abortion clinic

By JIM SALTER
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Missouri has at least temporarily avoided becoming the first state without a functioning abortion clinic since 1974, the year after the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision.

A St. Louis judge on Friday intervened on behalf of a Planned Parenthood clinic there that is at odds with state regulators who are refusing to renew the facility's license to perform abortions. The license was set to expire effective Saturday. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Service cited patient safety concerns and said it wanted to talk to several clinic doctors. Planned Parenthood said two staff doctors agreed to interviews, but that others who are contractors or no longer work at the clinic would not talk. A look at some of the key questions surrounding the potential closure of Missouri's only abortion clinic:

HOW DID IT GET TO THIS POINT?

Missouri law requires an annual inspection of abortion clinics. The inspection in St. Louis was in March. The health department cited several deficiencies, including "at least one incident in which patient safety was gravely compromised." It also cited what it called "failed surgical abortions in which women remained pregnant," and an alleged failure to obtain "informed consent."

At a hearing before Judge Michael Stelzer on Thursday, Planned Parenthood attorney Jamie Boyer said the seven deficiencies have been "remedied,"

but the license is threatened unless the non-staff physicians agree to be interviewed. Boyer said Planned Parenthood can't force people who aren't on staff to cooperate. Assistant Attorney General John Sauer told the judge that any doctor who has performed an abortion should be made available for the investigation.

WHAT DOES THE JUDGE'S FRIDAY RULING MEAN?

The clinic can continue to perform abortions for now. The judge issued a temporary restraining order that prohibits the state from taking away the clinic's license to perform abortions. The license will remain in effect at least until the judge issues a ruling on Planned Parenthood's request for a permanent injunction. A hearing is set for Tuesday morning.

WHERE ELSE DO MISSOURI WOMEN GET ABORTIONS?

Some Missouri residents already must travel hundreds of miles to get an abortion. Closure of the St. Louis clinic would mean they might have to go farther, but not much: The Hope Clinic for Women performs abortions in Granite City, Illinois, 10 miles (16 kilometers) from St. Louis.

For people in the western half of the state, the closest option is Planned Parenthood's Abortion Services clinic in Overland Park, Kansas, a suburb of Kansas City, Missouri, just 2 miles (3 kilometers) from the state line.

About 3,300 of the 7,000 abortions performed in Kansas last year were for Missouri residents, according to Kansas' health



In this May 17, 2019 file photo, Teresa Pettis, right, greets a passerby outside the Planned Parenthood clinic in St. Louis.

Associated Press

department. Information provided by the state of Missouri shows that at least 48 percent of Missourians who received abortions in 2017, the most recent data

available, did so in another state. But the percentage is almost certainly higher because some states, including Illinois, don't provide the data. □

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Oklahomans clean up after flood; Arkansans brace for crest

By ADAM KEALOHA CAUSEY and HANNAH GRABENSTEIN

Associated Press

SAND SPRINGS, Okla. (AP)

— Storm-weary residents in Oklahoma were gutting waterlogged homes Sunday as the Arkansas River continued its slow crest rolling hundreds of miles downstream, even as many kept a cautious eye on this week's weather forecasts showing more rain.

In the Tulsa suburb of Sand Springs — among the first communities inundated when the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers started releasing more water from a dam upriver to control more severe flooding elsewhere — soggy couches and recliners and dumpsters full of carpet, drywall and insulation lined residential streets covered in silt deposited by floodwaters.

Jamie Casto was helping clean up the house where her 65-year-old uncle has lived for 14 years.

Though Casto, 35, said her uncle didn't have flood insurance because he was told he lived in a 500-year floodplain, a rust-colored line 4 feet from the concrete floor of the garage clearly marked how high water had gotten before they were able to get into the house Friday.

Casto is trying to help her uncle fill out paperwork to apply for emergency loans to help get the house back in order.

She gave Democratic



In this Thursday, May 30, 2019 photo, Joel Harness works to clean his daughter's home that was flooded in the Town and Country neighborhood west of Sand Springs, Okla.

presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke a tour of the home while he was in historically red Oklahoma to see damage firsthand. The former Texas congressman said that if he is elected, his plan would include federal grants to invest in communities before disasters strike because the planet is warming and fires, storms and floods are expected to get worse.

"We know there's going to be more of this — more severe, more devastating," O'Rourke said. "We need to invest in communities now."

Cleanup won't be fast or easy. The Tulsa Area Emergency Management Agency put out a call for

volunteers last week, with caveats that volunteers must bring their own gloves and boots. The Tulsa Health Department also gave free tetanus vaccinations to volunteers.

The National Weather Service said that in Tulsa, the river was at just over 13 feet (4 meters) Sunday morning, 10 feet (3 meters) lower than its high point on Wednesday.

On Saturday, President Donald Trump declared a major disaster in Oklahoma and made federal funding available to Muskogee, Tulsa and Wagoner counties, which have been hit by flooding, tornadoes and other storms. Across the state, officials said six

people died and 118 were injured from the severe weather this spring.

As the high waters travel southeast, officials in Dardanelle, Arkansas, where a levee breached, said the risk of widespread flooding has abated, though communities further downstream aren't out of danger yet.

Dardanelle Mayor Jimmy Witt said in a Facebook post Saturday night that he thought the city of about 4,700 people "will be ok" after the flow of water toward the community began to slow.

Witt had previously warned the city could be inundated after the river on Friday made a 40-foot (12-meter)

hole in a levee in Dardanelle, which is roughly 100 miles (160 kilometers) upstream from Little Rock.

Officials said Saturday that they were constructing a temporary levee, calling it a "last ditch effort" to shore up the city's southern border and predicting that up to 800 homes could be affected by creeping floodwaters. The threat decreased hours later as the flow of water slowed.

By Sunday morning, Dardanelle appeared to be safe. Yell County Office of Emergency Management Director Jeff Gilkey said the river never reached the temporary levee. But Gilkey and Witt warned that more rain could reverse the city's fortunes.

National Weather Service meteorologist Dennis Cavanaugh said possible rain in Oklahoma would likely prolong flooding along the Arkansas River, though it probably wouldn't raise water levels higher than where they crested. Most areas will see the threat of major flooding subside within a few weeks, although the river will likely stay very high through June, Cavanaugh said.

Arkansas is expected to get more rain later in the week, which would increase the likelihood of flash-flooding. "Normally, the waters would drain pretty quickly into the Arkansas River," he said, but with the river flooded, water will have nowhere to go. □

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Virginia Beach attacker notified boss of plans to leave job

By **BEN FINLEY** and **MICHAEL KUNZELMAN**

Associated Press

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP)

— The gunman who attacked his colleagues at a Virginia Beach government office building resigned by email hours before the shooting, a city official said Sunday as authorities sought a motive in the assault that killed 12 people. Officials gave no indication why 40-year-old DeWayne Craddock had notified a superior of his intention to leave his job as a civil engineer in the utilities department. He was an employee “in good standing” and showed “satisfactory” job performance, City Manager Dave Hansen said. Police Chief James Cervera described a chaotic scene as officers entered the building and pursued the assailant through a tightly packed warren of offices that the chief likened to a maze or a honeycomb. They exchanged fire in a protracted gunbattle. Cervera did not know how many rounds were fired but said it was “well into the double digits.”

“In the police world, anything more than three to five shots is a long gunbattle,” he said.

At one point, the suspect fired at officers through a door and a wall and hit one officer, who was saved by a bulletproof vest. Then the firing stopped, and police realized the gunman was holed up in an office. When they got into the office, they took the wound-

ed shooter into custody and gave him first aid, Cervera said. He was taken from the scene by ambulance 36 minutes after officers arrived and died at a hospital. A medical examiner will determine whether he was killed by an officer's bullet or his own, the chief said.

There was no indication he targeted anyone specifically. Cervera said investigators are retracing the gunman's activities on the day of the attack, using his electronic keycard to track his movements through secure areas of the building. They are also reviewing his personal and professional lives trying to find a motive. “Right now we do not have anything glaring,” he said. “There's nothing that hits you right between the eyes. But we are working on it.”

Craddock appeared to have had no felony record, making him eligible to purchase guns. Government investigators identified two .45-caliber pistols used in the attack, and all indicators were that he purchased them legally in 2016 and 2018, said Ashan Benedict, the regional special agent for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. The police chief said at least one had a noise suppressor.

City officials uttered the gunman's name just once and said they would not mention it again.

Officers found victims throughout the building, on three floors. Among



Names of victims of a mass shooting at a municipal building in Virginia Beach, Va., are displayed during a vigil at Bridge Church, Saturday, June 1, 2019, in Virginia Beach, Va.

the dead were four other engineers who worked to maintain streets and protect wetlands and three right-of-way agents who reviewed property lines. Others included an account clerk, a technician, an administrative assistant and a special projects coordinator. In all, they had served the city of Virginia Beach for more than 150 years.

The 12th fatality was a contractor who was in the building seeking a permit. At least four other people who were wounded remained hospitalized in critical condition Sunday.

A handwritten note was posted Saturday at the suspect's home expressing condolences to the shooting victims on behalf of his family. Co-workers described him as quiet, nice and polite, and neighbors said he was into cars and bodybuilding.

Two city workers said Sun-

day that they are lucky to be alive after coming face-to-face with the gunman during his rampage.

Terry Inman, an account clerk in the city's public utilities department, said he turned around and saw Craddock standing there with a gun. Inman said he told him, “DeWayne, stop!” “He turned and looked straight at me, but he didn't see me. He looked straight in my face, and he did not see me standing there because he didn't raise the gun. He didn't even make an indication that he saw anyone there,” Inman told The Associated Press. “To me, that was the Holy Spirit inflecting something on that man to the point where he didn't see Terry Inman standing there.”

Inman's colleague, Ned Carlstrom, crossed paths with the gunman three times and made eye contact twice. He can only

guess that Craddock spared him because they parked near each other and often had lighthearted conversations during the morning walk to the building.

“He had the gun down at his side. He was so close to me. He swung his arm out. He damn near hit me with the gun. That's how close we were,” Carlstrom said. “But he never raised the gun at me. He looked up at me briefly.”

Inman said he did not know of any turmoil in Craddock's life.

“It's so cotton-picking cliché you almost hate to say it, but he has always been rock-solid kind of positive guy. He always had a smile on his face,” Inman said. “Nothing in (his) character would cause you to think, ‘This guy is going to come in and kill 11 of my colleagues ... 12 people that work in the same building.’” □

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Pentagon tells White House to stop politicizing military

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR**

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

The Pentagon has told the White House to stop politicizing the military, amid a furor over a Trump administration order to have the Navy ship named for the late U.S. Sen. John McCain hidden from view during President Donald Trump's recent visit to Japan.

Trump's top aide scoffed at the idea that anyone working for the White House might be punished. "We think it's much ado about nothing."

A U.S. defense official said Patrick Shanahan, Trump's acting defense chief, is also considering sending out formal guidance to military units in order to avoid similar problems in the future.

Shanahan confirmed de-



Acting U.S. Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan, left, arrives for the opening dinner of the 18th International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) Shangri-la Dialogue, an annual defense and security forum in Asia, in Singapore, Friday, May 31, 2019.

tails about a Navy email that said the White House military office wanted the USS John McCain kept "out of sight" when Trump was in Japan about a week ago. The internal Navy email

came to light last week, triggering a storm of outrage.

Trump, who long feuded with McCain, has said he knew nothing about the request, but added that "somebody did it because they thought I didn't like him, OK? And they were well-meaning, I will say." Shanahan told reporters traveling with him to South Korea on Sunday that he is not planning to seek an investigation by the Pentagon's internal watchdog into the matter "because there was nothing carried out" by the Navy. He added that he still needs to gather more information about exactly what happened and what service members did.

"How did the people receiving the information — how did they treat it," Shanahan said. "That would give me an understanding on the next steps" to take. Shanahan did not detail what those steps could be, but a defense official said Shanahan is considering a clearer directive to the military about avoiding political situations. The goal would be to ensure there is less ambiguity about how the military should support

VIP events and how service members should respond to such political requests, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

Shanahan also said that he spoke with McCain's wife, Cindy, a few days ago. He declined to provide any details.

The order to keep the Navy destroyer out of sight reflected what appeared to be an extraordinary White House effort to avoid offending an unpredictable president known for holding a grudge, including a particularly bitter one against McCain.

Trump's acting chief of staff, in appearances on two Sunday news shows in the U.S., said he did not expect anyone working for the White House to face discipline. "To think that you're going to get fired over this is silly," said Mick Mulvaney, making the comparison to someone who tries to sit bickering colleagues apart from each other at an office meeting.

"The fact that some 23- or 24-year-old person on the advance team went to that site and said 'Oh my goodness, there's the John McCain, we all know how the president feels about the former senator, maybe that's not the best backdrop, can somebody look into moving it?'" That's not an unreasonable thing to ask," Mulvaney said.

The McCain incident has dogged Shanahan throughout his weeklong trip to Asia, even as he tried to deal with critical national security issues involving the eroding U.S. relationship with China and the continuing threat from North Korea.

Shanahan, who has been serving in an acting ca-

capacity since the first of the year, has yet to be formally nominated by Trump as permanent defense chief. His speech to a major national security conference in Singapore on Saturday was a chance to audition for the job on the international stage.

A formal nomination has been expected, and Congress members have said they believe there will be a hearing on his nomination in the next month or so. The McCain issue is sure to come up, but it's not clear how it may affect either his nomination or confirmation by the Senate. It may well depend on what steps he takes to respond to the matter in the coming days. According to Shanahan spokesman Lt. Col. Joseph Buccino, Shanahan told his chief of staff on Friday to speak with the White House military office "and reaffirm his mandate that the department of defense will not be politicized." Buccino said the chief of staff reported back that he delivered the message.

Asked what he has learned about the incident so far, Shanahan said he was told that despite the White House request, the Navy did not move the ship and that a barge that was in front of it was moved before Trump arrived. He said that a tarp that had been draped over the ship's name was removed, but that it was put there for maintenance, not to obscure its identity.

Asked directly if members of his senior staff were aware of the White House request before the president's visit, Shanahan said he's been told they did not know. He also has said he was not aware of the request and that he would never have authorized it. □

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China blames U.S. for trade dispute, but doesn't escalate

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China fired back at the U.S. Sunday over the two nations' trade dispute, issuing a report that blamed the conflict on the Trump administration but refrained from escalating the trade war.

The report from the Cabinet spokesman's office said China won't back down on "major issues of principle," but offered no sense of whether or how the world's second largest economy might retaliate against U.S. tariffs on goods manufactured in China.

The report said China has kept its word throughout 11 rounds of talks and will honor its commitments if a trade agreement is reached. It accused the U.S. of backtracking three times over the course of the talks by introducing new tariffs and other conditions beyond what was agreed on.

"But the more the U.S. government is offered, the more it wants," it said, accusing America's negotiators of "resorting to intimidation and coercion."

"A country's sovereignty and dignity must be respected, and any agreement reached by the two sides must be based on equality and mutual benefit," the report said.

The report, delivered at a Sunday morning news conference, appears to be a bid to shore up China's arguments and justify its position in the face of what looks to be a protracted dispute.

Over recent days, China has been mobilizing its representatives abroad to sell its position with foreign audiences, while the domestic propaganda apparatus has been working overtime to convince the public of



Chinese Vice Minister of Commerce Wang Shouwen speaks during a press conference about China-U.S. Trade issues at the State Council Information Office in Beijing, Sunday, June 2, 2019.

Associated Press

the righteousness of the government's stance.

Linda Lim, a professor at Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan, said the report does not represent an escalation on China's part, but rather reiterates the government's position in a clear and measured way that leaves the door open for negotiations.

"They threw the ball back into the U.S. court," she said.

She said the report is a public relations win for China's government at a time when U.S. President Donald Trump's trade policy is antagonizing other U.S. trading partners, most recently Mexico.

Trump announced last week that he would impose 5% tariffs on Mexican imports starting June 10 if the Mexicans don't do more to stop the surge of Central American migrants across the southern U.S. border.

The U.S. has accused China of stealing trade secrets and forced technology

transfers. The Trump administration has imposed 25% tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese imports and is planning to tax the \$300 billion in imports that have so far been spared. It also escalated the stakes this month by putting Chinese telecom giant Huawei on a blacklist that effectively bars U.S. companies from supplying it with computer chips, software and other components without government approval.

Beijing responded by imposing tariffs on \$60 billion worth of U.S. products, which went into effect Saturday. It also retaliated against the U.S. blacklisting of Huawei by announcing Friday that it will establish its own list of "unreliable entities" consisting of foreign businesses, corporations and individuals.

Wang Shouwen, China's vice commerce minister and deputy international trade representative, said China would issue more detailed information on the unreliable entities list soon,

but that it was aimed at enterprises that "violated market principles" and cut supplies of components to Chinese businesses for non-commercial reasons.

China's statement that it intends to publish such a list follows additional measures last week that deepened the bite of U.S. sanctions imposed on Huawei in mid-May.

Several leading U.S.-based global technology standards-setting groups announced restrictions on Huawei's participation in their activities under U.S. Commerce Department rules that bar the sale and transfer of U.S. technology to Huawei without government approval.

Wang also repeated suggestions that China could restrict the export of exotic minerals known as rare earths that are widely used in electric cars and cell phones. Foremost among them is lithium, the main component in modern batteries.

The threat to use China's

rich supply of rare earths as leverage in the conflict has contributed to sharp losses in U.S. stocks and sliding long-term bond yields.

"If some countries use China's rare earth metals to produce products to contain China's development, this is unacceptable by standards of both minds and hearts," Wang said.

Sunday's report lays out China's argument for blaming Washington for the frictions as well as the costs to both sides, and said China has room for fiscal policy changes to maintain the health of its economy amid the dispute.

Wang said China had been forced to "take forceful measures in response" to U.S. actions and denied China had backtracked on its earlier commitments.

He said the U.S. had made unacceptable demands, including on tariffs and compulsory requirements that infringed on Chinese sovereignty. "You give them an inch, they take a yard," he said.

However, Wang questioned how much China was actually benefiting from its surplus, saying a joint Chinese-U.S. study showed the U.S. figure could be inflated by as much as 20%.

The U.S. deficit with China has actually been worsening since tariffs were first imposed, Wang said, pointing to a 50% decline in soy bean exports to China and a drop-off in U.S. auto sales in the country. The average U.S. family, meanwhile, will pay an additional \$831 for consumer items over the year due to the higher tariffs, he said, while the dispute's impact on businesses could end up costing 2.23 million U.S. jobs overall. "That shows that the deepening trade restrictions hurt U.S. workers," Wang said. □

5 injured in Venice as cruise ship slams into tourist boat



A partial view of the damaged prow of the MSC Opera cruise ship, moored at the Venice harbor, Italy, Sunday, June 2, 2019.

Associated Press

By **CAIN BURDEAU and LUCA BRUNO**

Associated Press

VENICE, Italy (AP) — A towering, out-of-control cruise ship rammed into a dock and a tourist riverboat on a busy Venice canal on Sunday morning, injuring five people, officials said. The collision sparked new calls for placing restrictions on cruise ships in the famed city.

The crash happened about 8:30 a.m. (0630 GMT) on the Giudecca Canal, a major thoroughfare that leads to St. Mark's Square in the northeastern Italian city.

The MSC Opera cruise ship, apparently unable to stop, blared its horn as it slammed into the much smaller River Countess boat and the dock as dozens of people ran away in panic. In videos of the crash, people were seen rushing to disembark from the moored riverboat over a short gangplank, and at least two people were left caught on the walkway as the vessel was dislodged from the pier.

Elisabetta Pasqualin was watering plants on her terrace when she heard warning sirens and stepped out to see the crash.

"There was this huge ship in a diagonal position in

the Giudecca Canal, with a tugboat near which seemed like it couldn't do anything," she said.

She described the ship "advancing slowly but inevitably towards the dock." She said "the bow of the ship crashed hard into the bank with its massive weight crushing a big piece of it. Sirens were wailing loudly; it was a very dramatic scene."

When the cruise ship rammed the riverboat, she said the smaller vessel looked like it was "made of plastic or paper" rather than steel.

Local officials said five women aboard the riverboat were injured. They said one was released immediately from a hospital, while four others were advised to remain under medical care for a few days.

Earlier, medical authorities said four of the women — an American, a New Zealander and two Australians between the ages of 67 and 72 — were injured falling or trying to run away when the cruise ship rammed into the River Countess.

Venice is a tremendously popular site for both tourists and cruise ships, especially during the summer tourist season.

The cruise ship's owner, MSC Cruises, said the vessel was about to dock at a passenger terminal in Venice when it had a mechanical problem.

Two tugboats guiding the cruise ship into Venice tried to stop the MSC Opera, but they were unable to prevent it from ramming into the riverboat.

"The two tugboats tried to stop the giant and then a tow cable broke, cut by the collision with the riverboat," Davide Calderan, president of a tugboat association in Venice, told the Italian news agency ANSA.

Calderan said the cruise ship's engine was locked when the captain called for help.

Italian media posted an audio clip of the MSC Opera's pilot telling emergency officials that the ship experienced a loss of controls and "activated all the procedures to avoid what in the end happened, which was an impact."

On an audio clip, the pilot said anchors were dropped and that tugboats connected to the ship's bow and stern took maneuvers to stop the ship.

"Here on the bridge, we don't understand what happened," the pilot is

heard saying. An investigation was launched.

The collision froze boat traffic in the busy canal, and forced another MSC cruise ship to drop anchors in front of the historic city as it waited for the damaged vessels to be removed.

Coincidentally, this famous maritime city on Sunday was celebrating an ancient tradition called the "Marriage of the Sea," which features processions of boats.

But the crash forced parts of the celebration to be canceled, Italian media reported.

Following the collision, calls for banning cruise ships in Venice, long a source of contention in the over-extended tourist city, were renewed.

For many, the crash served as a wake-up call. Opponents say cruise ships are out-of-scale for Venice, cause pollution, endanger the lagoon's ecosystem and a danger.

"Obviously, we've seen today that our worst fears have come true," said Jane Da Mosto, an environmental scientist and executive director of We Are Here Venice. Her group backs efforts to ban cruise ships from Venice.

"There were 111 people on

the river cruise boat that the big ship crashed into. They could have all died," she said.

She said the cruise ship could have plowed through the concrete embankment and "hit houses, monuments and crowds of people."

"The port authority, the government ministers, the other institutions have often tried to ridicule the resistance movement against the cruise ships, saying that an accident like this could never occur," she added.

"The government shouldn't be so weak in giving in to the pressure of the lobby groups, like the cruise ship companies."

The collision came four days after a river cruise ship collided with a sightseeing boat carrying South Korean tourists in Hungary's capital, killing seven and leaving 21 others missing.

Not everyone in Venice is opposed to the cruise ships. Pasqualin, the woman who witnessed the collision, counted herself among those prior to Sunday's crash.

"I've always been positive about the ships, but I have to admit I've started to change my mind now, because this was a tragic, terrible and dramatic scene," she said.

Italian officials said the collision underscored the need to ban cruise ships from using the busy Giudecca Canal, but they stopped short of calling for a ban on cruise ships.

"Today's accident in the port of Venice proves that cruise ships shouldn't be allowed to pass down the Giudecca anymore," said Danilo Toninelli, Italy's transport minister. "After many years of inertia, we are finally close to a solution to protect both the lagoon and tourism."

The MSC Opera was built in 2004. It can carry over 2,675 passengers in 1,071 cabins. According to its sailing schedule, it left Venice on May 26 and traveled to Kotor, Montenegro, and Mykonos, Santorini and Corfu in Greece before returning Sunday to Venice. □



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Legal document alleges EU migrant ‘crimes against humanity’

By LORI HINNANT
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — More than 40,000 people have been intercepted in the Mediterranean and taken to detention camps and torture houses under a European migration policy that is responsible for crimes against humanity, according to a legal document Monday asking the International Criminal Court to take the case. Citing public European Union documents, statements from the French president, the German chancellor and other top European Union officials, the document alleges that European Union officials are knowingly responsible for deaths at land and sea, and widespread rape and torture at the hands of a Libyan coast guard funded and trained at the expense of European taxpayers. It names no EU official but cites an ongoing ICC investigation into the fate of migrants in Libya.

“We leave it to the prosecutor, if he dares, if she dares, to go into the structures of power and to investigate at the heart of Brussels, of Paris, of Berlin and Rome and to see by searching in the archives of the meetings of the negotiations who was really behind the scenes trying to push for these policies that triggered the death of more than 14,000 people,” said Juan Branco, a lawyer who co-wrote the report and shared it with The Associated Press.

The first crime, according to the document, was the



In this April 11 2019 file photo, Lawyer Juan Branco who co-authored a legal document alleging crimes against humanity by the European Union as he speaks during an interview with The Associated Press in Paris, France.

decision to end the Mare Nostrum rescue operation near the close of 2014. In one year, the operation rescued 150,810 migrants in the Mediterranean as hundreds of thousands crossed the sea. The operation cost more than 9 million euros a month, nearly all paid for by Italy. It was replaced by an operation named Triton, financed by all 28 EU nations at a fraction of the cost. But unlike the earlier operation, Triton ships didn't patrol directly off the Libyan coast, the origin of most of the flimsy boats that were taking off for Europe.

Deaths in the Mediterranean soared. In 2014, around 3,200 migrants died in the sea. The following year, it rose to over 4,000,

and in 2016 peaked at over 5,100 deaths and disappearances, according to figures from the International Organization for Migration.

“The objective of this new policy was to sacrifice the lives of many in order to impact the behavior of more,” according to the complaint. “It also failed. Crossings did not decrease as predicted, because the risk had little deterrent effect on those who have little to lose to begin with.” It was at that point that EU countries turned to the Libyan coast guard, sending money and boats and a degree of training to units of the loosely organized force linked to various factions of Libya's militias. For

Alpha Kaba, a Guinean who was detained in conditions that amounted to slavery in Libya before ultimately making the crossing in 2016, that decision is a travesty.

Kaba was rescued by a ship operated by humanitarian organizations. Those are all but gone now from the Mediterranean, after coastal countries repeatedly refused to allow them to dock with migrants on board. And in the past two years migration has considerably increased to Europe. The total for the first four months of 2019 was around 24,200 for irregular migration, 27% lower than a year ago, according to Frontex, the EU's border agency.

“Yes, there's no more mi-

gration, but where are all those young people that they picked up. They're in the prisons. They're in Libya and in prisons, and they're being tortured over there. If they aren't allowed in Europe, then let them go back to their countries quickly and under good conditions,” said Kaba, who has asylum in France. “There are no more entrances or exits.”

The EU has repeatedly acknowledged that the treatment of migrants in Libya is of great concern, although it has declined to waiver in its support for the Libyan coast guard.

The ICC is a court of last resort that handles cases of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide when other countries are unwilling or unable to prosecute.

Libya's role in the migrant crisis is already on the radar of the court's chief prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda. In a statement to the Security Council in May 2017, she said that her investigators were collecting and analyzing “information relating to serious and widespread crimes allegedly committed against migrants attempting to transit through Libya.” She told the council: “I am deeply alarmed by reports that thousands of vulnerable migrants, including women and children, are being held in detention centers across Libya in often inhumane conditions. Crimes, including killings, rapes and torture, are alleged to be commonplace.” □

“El Chapo” mother says U.S approved visa to visit drug lord

By **MARCELO VIANO and AMY GUTHRIE**

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The mother of convicted drug kingpin Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán said Saturday that the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City granted her a visa so she can visit her son in prison.

Sitting in a wheelchair in front of the embassy, Consuelo Loera said she and two daughters were both approved Saturday for visas to travel to the United States.

“Thank God, the U.S. Embassy gave me the permission,” she said in a feeble voice while surrounded by a throng of journalists:

Loera, 91, said she hasn’t seen her son in more than four years. She added that she has yet to receive the actual visa or set a date for her trip.

A U.S. official declined to confirm that the visa was granted.

Jose Luis González, a lawyer for Guzmán, said Loera was given a paper after the interview stating that U.S. officials would get in touch if they need more information. González also said the three women were approved for travel.

“Did you see how excited she was?” said González, repeating Loera’s statement that she wants to hug her son.



Consuelo Loera, mother of Mexican drug lord Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán, arrives to the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, Mexico, Saturday, June 1, 2019.

Associated Press

If she could bring him anything, Loera said, it would be his favorite Mexican food dish: enchiladas.

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador lobbied for the visa to be issued after receiving a letter in February from Loera asking for assistance. In the letter, passed to López Obrador while he was in Guzmán’s home state of Sinaloa to announce a highway project, Loera described herself as “suffering and desperate” to see her son.

The president said he intervened out of empathy for the mother. When Guzmán was convicted in the U.S. in February, López Obrador said: “Let this serve as a lesson to show that money doesn’t buy true happiness.”

“El Chapo,” who led the Sinaloa drug cartel and twice escaped from Mexican prisons before he was extradited to New York, was convicted of running an industrial-scale smuggling operation. The three-month trial heard tales of grisly killings, political pay-offs, cocaine hidden in jalapeño cans and jewel-encrusted guns.

Guzmán’s lawyers did not deny his crimes but argued that he was a fall guy for government witnesses who were more evil than their client.

He is due to be sentenced this month and faces a life term in a maximum-security U.S. prison selected to guard against another of the jail breakouts that made him a folk hero in Mexico. □

Canada suspends operations at embassy in Venezuela

By **ROB GILLIES**

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Canada suspended operations at its embassy in Venezuela on Sunday, saying the regime of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro regime would not renew visas for its diplomats.

Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland said in a statement that Canada had no choice.

“The regime has taken steps to limit the ability of foreign embassies to function in Venezuela, particularly those advocating for

the restoration of democracy in Venezuela,” Freeland said. “Unfortunately, at the end of this month, Canadian diplomats in Venezuela will no longer be in a position to obtain diplomatic accreditation under the Maduro regime, and their visas will expire. Therefore, we are left with no choice but to temporarily suspend our operations at the Embassy of Canada to Venezuela, effective immediately.”

Freeland said Canada is evaluating the status of Venezuelan diplomats ap-

pointed by the Maduro regime to Canada.

Canada has played a key role within the Lima Group, which is made up of nearly a dozen Latin American nations and Canada. It has led the push to recognize opposition lawmaker Juan Guaidó as Venezuela’s rightful leader and seeks ways to remove Maduro. Freeland said Canada will continue to speak out against the Maduro regime.

Freeland is attending a Lima Group meeting in New York on Monday. □



In this June 1, 2018, file photo, U.S. President Donald Trump, right, talks with Kim Yong Chol, former North Korean military intelligence chief and one of leader Kim Jong Un’s closest aides, as they walk from their meeting in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

Top North Korean official reappears days after purge report

By **KIM TONG-HYUNG**

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— A senior North Korean official who had been reported as purged over the failed nuclear summit with Washington was shown in state media on Monday enjoying a concert alongside leader Kim Jong Un.

North Korean publications on Monday showed Kim Yong Chol sitting near a clapping Kim Jong Un and other top officials during a musical performance by the wives of Korean People’s Army officers.

Kim Yong Chol has been North Korea’s top nuclear negotiator and the counterpart of U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo since Kim Jong Un entered nuclear talks with the U.S. early last year. He traveled to Washington and met President Donald Trump twice before Kim’s two summits with Trump.

South Korean newspaper Chosun Ilbo last week cited an unidentified source to report that Kim Yong Chol had been sentenced to hard labor following the collapse

of the second summit in February over what the Americans described as excessive North Korean demands for sanctions relief in exchange for only a partial surrender of its nuclear capabilities. Kim Jong Un since then has said the United States has until the end of the year to come up with mutually acceptable terms for a deal to salvage the negotiations.

Chosun Ilbo also reported that senior envoy Kim Hyok Chol, who was involved in pre-summit working-level talks with American officials, was executed with four other officials from the North’s Foreign Ministry for betraying Kim Jong Un after being won over by the United States.

South Korea’s government and media have a mixed record on tracking developments among North Korea’s ruling elite, made difficult by Pyongyang’s stringent control of information about them. Seoul’s spy service has said it could not confirm the newspaper’s report, while the presidential Blue House declined to comment. □

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Restaurant Windows on Aruba excels: 8 Michelin Stars, 4 Chefs, Two Nights, One Location

EAGLE BEACH — When do you get the chance to try the culinary arts of several Michelin masters in one night? This is an event that brings four Michelin star chefs to Aruba. Together, with their sous chefs and ingredients imported from Holland, they take you to culinary heaven with a 5-course dinner and wine pairing. Windows on Aruba at Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort Restaurant uplifts gastronomy with the biggest Michelin pop-up Event in the Caribbean.

Director of Operations Dominique Bauduin and Food & Beverage Manager, Marrit Fleur, talked excitedly about this unique event. Dominique: "The idea originated together with Alex Nieuwe, Managing Director of Divi Resorts Aruba, and Carsten Klint, culinary specialist, board member of the Amsterdam Diner Foundation and initiator of the pop-up Michelin Star dinners internationally. Divi is always looking into out-of-the-box happenings for their guests as well as our local community.

The Masters

Francois Geurds is son of Aruban-Dutch parents. He has an impressive track record as a chef. He worked with Michelin star chefs in New York, was sous chef at the best restaurant in the world at that time: The Fat Duck in England and is now internationally known for his innovative way of cooking. He owns two

restaurants in The Netherlands, one with two stars and the other with one. Recently the Aruban government officially honoured him as Cultural Ambassador of Aruba.

Erik van Loo is the son of a butcher and owns the two Michelin star restaurants, Parkheuvel, in Rotterdam. His sauces and classic French cuisine with a modern touch are famous.

Edwin Vinke had a dream when he was a young boy that came true: his own Michelin star restaurant, now with two stars and housed in an old school building. His love for regional products combined with the personalized way of working plus a craving for self-sufficiency made him stand out. All of his dishes are organic without preservatives or sugar. He produces his own bees honey, grows his own herbs, and raises his own cows and pigs.

Jerman de Rozario started his culinary journey as a 26-year-old and zero experience. Now, at 34, he has his own Michelin star restaurant. His youth was turbulent and included dropping-out of school, drug issues and financial problems. But he fought his way through this and shows that hard work and perseverance pays off. Indonesian and Asian flavors are mingled with lots of creativity. "A kitchen with punch and finesse," quotes Michelin Guide 2019.

The Palette

Marrit: "The night kicks off with a champagne, followed by four hors d'oeuvres, each one created by a different chef. We continue with a 5-course dinner started by Francois Geurds with the first appetizer. All chefs prepare one course with the exception of Geurds who will prepare two." The host of the evening will be Carsten Klint, he will also introduce the chefs. Raymond Kok from Pepia Est, one of our main sponsors, is the sommelier who will take care of the wine pairing. All ingredients are carefully chosen by the chefs in Holland and brought in by KLM Dutch Airlines. "One can expect a lot of interaction with the host, the chefs and there will be entertainment by a DJ."

The Masterpiece

For sure Divi sets a goal here not only to pamper the guests, but also to upgrade the culinary level on the island. The event creates international exposure. "Throughout the year we do a lot of events where we bring chefs or concepts to Aruba like Pasta e Basta, Wox from The Hague, Green Egg Experience with chef Ijsbrant and this one. We focus on quality and standing out", Dominique says. "The chef will not only present a phenomenal dinner but also work with our chef upgrading their culinary know how, we hope to make this an annual event for the future. Culinary energy!"

Both dinners are sold out on Friday June 7th and Saturday June 8th, 2019. For more information check Facebook Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort, Aruba or <https://www.diviresorts.com/aruba-culinary>.



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New Marathon record for KLM Aruba Marathon



PALM BEACH — The KLM Aruba Marathon took some breath away yesterday on Palm Beach. There were more than 2000 finishers, of which 25% came from around the World. Marathon winner Jesus Galea won the Marathon in 2018 and also this year!

The winner of the KLM Aruba Marathon distance is from Aruba and ran the distance of 26 miles, 42 kilometers in 2:50:28. The best female Marathon runner is Lana Gobert (Aruba) who ran the track in 3:03:00.



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Results

KLM ARUBA MARATHON

POS	NAME	BIB	GUN TIME
1	Jesus Galea	1010	02:50:28
2	Wojciech Kopec	1	03:00:00
3	Lana Gobert	560	03:03:00
4	Ernesto Silva	158	03:06:17
5	Javier Rodriguez	1161	03:21:51

HILTON ARUBA HALF MARATHON

POS	NAME	BIB	GUN TIME
1	Jonathan Busby	559	01:25:16
2	Rigoberto V/D Linde	659	01:28:07
3	Alric Kock	561	01:28:36
4	Romar Arendsz	565	01:29:30
5	Jareth Vermeulen	909	01:29:59

CHILL 10 KM WALK & RUN

POS	NAME	BIB	GUN TIME
1	James Rick	1282	00:34:53
2	Kelvin G. Gonzalez	100	00:35:41
3	Giovanni Rafini	1686	00:37:28
4	Joatham Kock	2074	00:38:17
5	Cesar Osorio	488	00:38:38

CAVALIER LOGISTICS 5 KM WALK & RUN

POS	NAME	BIB	GUN TIME
1	Jethro St. Fleur	1964	00:18:22
2	Joshwa Jansen	2505	00:18:30
3	Zhyon Geerman	1946	00:18:39
4	Gino Hodge	2249	00:19:09
5	Zaïr Croes	2084	00:19:32

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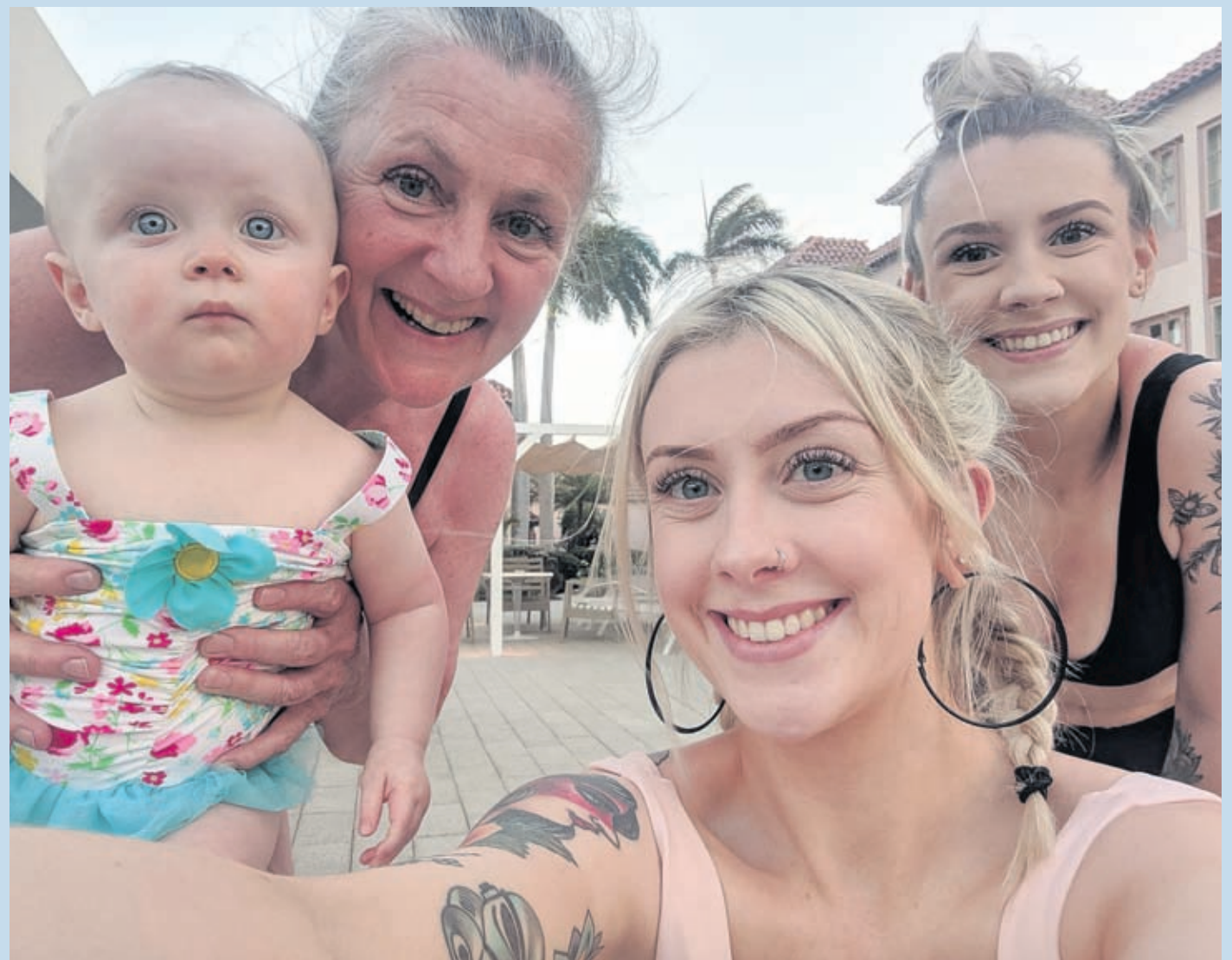
Aruba to Me

ORANJESTAD – Aruba Today likes to welcome readers to participate in our newspaper. You can see that in our Honored Guest-publications, specials like on Valentine's Day and on other occasions. Throughout the year you are always welcome to send us your vacation picture(s) together with completing the sentence: Aruba to me is (Email: news@arubato-day.com)

For today's newspaper we received a great picture from:

Riley Cussen

She wrote: "My daughter Charlotte, mother Caitriona and sister Taryn are visiting Aruba for nine days from Toronto, Canada. We are so happy to be here in this beautiful country. The people are so friendly. What an amazing place to bring my daughter for her first vacation. Greetings to my Husband back home, we miss you!" ☐





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Artistic book in four languages in Aruba



NETHERLANDS — In the last years painter **Gustave Nouel** started an interdisciplinary project with creative friends, aspiring an international artistic quality; a book in four languages titled 'Maternity'. This book is based on paintings that Gustave Nouel made of the Aruban model and actress **Zuleika Coffie** during her pregnancy and later as the mother of **Lilian**, sharing her maternal thoughts and reflections.

The strive is to present the book in 2019, in the National Library of Aruba, where Nouel was invited in 2009 for an exhibition, workshops and other activities related to the celebration of 60 years Library in Aruba. This was a successful project together with the University of Aruba, where Gustave also gave Masterclasses.

This time there is an explicit interest for a presentation of the paintings



that have been published in the book *Maternity* (Digital or traditional).

Gustave Nouel (GN) is not only participating, until June 22, as an invited artist-painter with the national exhibition in Ruurlo of famous Dutch artists with Art inspired by the famous model **Mathilde Willink** (www.mathildeinruurlo.nl).

But Gustave has also been invited for a solo-exhibition of his Jazz-Art

at Slot Kleverkamp in Deventer, until September 9 amongst others.

Art of the Aruban impressed **Jos van Gils**, editor of the national magazine *50Vitaalplus* in such a way that he offered Gustave free national promotion with a great publication in his edition of May/June 2019.

In almost all the waiting rooms in the Netherlands you can find *50Vitaalplus*. □

Honoring at Caribbean Palm Village



EAGLE BEACH — Recently, **Marouska Heyliger** honored **Phil and Laurie Naud** from Michigan with the **Goodwill Ambassadors** certificate in the name of the **Aruba Tourism Authority**.

The event which commemorates their 20th consecutive visit to the island was held at the Caribbean Palm Village.

The Naud's love coming to the island for the sun, beaches and friendly people. □

Aruban born and bred Steve Francees has a passion for photography. Being a local photographer he knows the hidden gems of this island and captures them in an amazing way. As a Family and Landscape photographer Steve is ready to create your next 'vacation memories', morning and/or sunset shots. T: (297) 738-0777, M: stevefrancees@hotmail.com, www.instagram.com/stevefrancees and www.stevefrancees.com



Aruba's Sunrises



Aruba is famous for its sunsets but sunrises can be a piece of art. I remember as a little boy I was so in love with sunrises and probably I took that custom from my grandfather who told me that the sunrise determined the sunset. Now I do agree that sunrise is a preview of sunset. The majority of the resorts on our island are located on the west of our island and that's why you can't see the sunrise so easy but I do encourage you to take the time to get up earlier, go to the beach and watch the amazing sunrise.

4X4 in Aruba



Sometimes they ask me if it's a must to have a 4X4 here in Aruba and the answer is yes and a little no. There are many places that you must have a 4X4 to experience the feeling being on that spot in nature. The north coastline, from California lighthouse to the Natural bridge is dirt road and super bumpy. Arikok National Park has also a big part that is only accessible by 4X4. The experience you will have in a 4X4 is a lifetime experience that will live for you forever.

Yes, I eat fresh Aruban eggs for breakfast



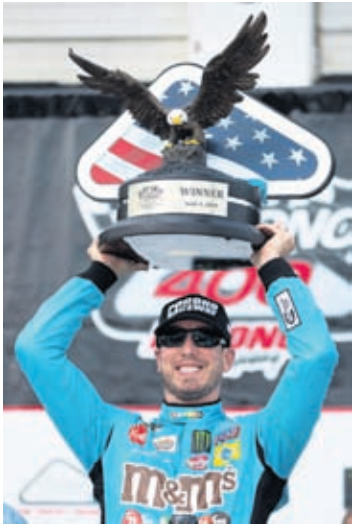
Here in Aruba it's very hard to grow anything because it's too dry and that's why we must import almost everything we eat on this lovely island. Over the last 5 years Hydroponics and so got more common and some farms plants lettuce but that's not enough for the whole island yet. About last year I was in a supermarket and noticed fresh local eggs from a farm here in Aruba and I'm telling you that the taste is delicious. It just taste better than egg, well it's supposed to taste like egg right? Anyway you get the idea and this was my breakfast. Let's support this farm and all other locally produced lettuces.

Don't forget to be happy



About two months ago I've met a neurosurgeon and she told me that she forgot to live her life. She was so dedicated into her career and years went by and she did not experience any other excitements like traveling so she decided to come to Aruba. I've met also another couple that told me that they were miserable for 25 years till they start going on vacation and choose Aruba as their destination. He told me that their lives changed and celebrated 50 years of marriage last year here in Aruba and now they have been happily married for the last 25 years. None of them are in this photo but the travel blogger Lin and her husband are.

SPORTS



Kyle Busch poses with the trophy in victory lane after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Pocono Raceway, Sunday, June 2, 2019, in Long Pond, Pa.

Associated Press

Kyle Busch moves into tie for 9th with 55th career Cup win

By DAN GELSTON
AP Sports Writer

LONG POND, Pa. (AP) — Kyle Busch tossed his young son in the air twice in victory lane and sprayed champagne toward anyone dry within reach. The good times and NASCAR milestones keep piling up for Busch and Joe Gibbs Racing. Heck, Busch might even give his Pocono Raceway trophy to his wife for a birthday present.

Take Sunday: Busch matched Hall of Fame driver Rusty Wallace for ninth on the NASCAR Cup Series career victory list with 55. He won for the fourth time this season. And the season of JGR that already includes a Daytona 500 championship and a Hall of Fame nod for patriarch Joe Gibbs shows no sign of tapering off.

Continued on Page 21

JACK'D UP

Cantlay charges to victory at the Memorial

Patrick Cantlay putts on the first hole during the final round of the Memorial golf tournament Sunday, June 2, 2019, in Dublin, Ohio.

Associated Press
Page 20



Jay Bruce traded from Mariners to NL East-leading Phillies

By JOLENE LATIMER

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jay Bruce is going from last place to the NL East-leading Philadelphia Phillies.

The former All-Star was traded by the Seattle Mariners on Sunday in a deal that will cost the Phillies just \$2.75 million over the next 1½ seasons. "I get to go somewhere I have a chance to win," the 32-year-old outfielder said, "and at this point in my career, that's pretty paramount for me."

As part of the deal, Seattle agreed to pay the Phillies \$18,567,204 next Jan. 15, offsetting most of the \$21,317,204 remaining in the \$39 million, three-year contract Bruce agreed to with the New York Mets in January 2018.

Bruce is owed \$8,317,204 this year from his \$13 million salary and has a \$13 million salary in 2020. The Mets remain responsible for the second \$1.5 million installment of his \$3 million signing bonus, a payment due next Jan. 31.

Philadelphia sent the Mariners minor league infielder Jake Scheiner, who will report to Class A Modesto.

Bruce will join the Phillies for Monday's game at San Diego. He is hitting .212 with 14 homers and 28 RBIs, striking out 53 times in 184 at-bats. "It's bittersweet," he said. "I really like the group of guys here. I got to know some of them and had great relationships. It's part of the business, though."

Phillies first baseman Rhys Hoskins welcomed news of the trade.

"Obviously that's an exciting move, another veteran guy, a guy who's done it in some big situations in the playoffs, another left-handed guy, a guy who knows the game," he said. "Comfortable in a ton of different roles and from everything I've heard he's a great dude. My guess is he'll fit right in here."

A three-time All-Star for Cincinnati in 2011, '12 and '16, Bruce was acquired by the Mets from the Reds on Aug. 1, 2016, traded to Cleveland on Aug. 9, 2017,



Seattle Mariners' Jay Bruce hits a solo home run off of Los Angeles Angels starting pitcher Tyler Skaggs during the seventh inning of a baseball game Friday, May 31, 2019, in Seattle. The home run was the 300th of Bruce's career.

Associated Press

then became a free agent and returned to the Mets.

He hit just .223 with nine homers and 37 RBIs in 94 games last year, when he was sidelined from mid-

June until late August because of a sore right hip. New York traded him to Seattle in December as part of the deal in which the salary-shedding Mariners sent

second baseman Robinson Canò and closer Edwin Díaz to the Mets.

"We believe he'll be able to operate in either corner," Phillies general manager Matt Klentak said. "I know he hasn't played a ton of first base in his career, but we think for a short period he'd be fine over there, too."

Phillies manager Gabe Kapler said Bruce would be used both off the bench and as a starter.

"Jay Bruce makes our bench stronger and I also think he makes our lineup stronger on days when we'll see a right-handed pitcher," he said. Philadelphia outfielder Odubel Herrera was placed on administrative leave by the commissioner's office Tuesday

under the sport's domestic violence policy after his arrest in Atlantic City, New Jersey. "Our outfield depth has been compromised in the first couple months of the year, and we think it's important for us to address that," Klentak said. "Sometimes it's just as important to solidify your bench and to build depth and make sure that when the inevitable happens — you don't know what it's going to be or who it's going to be or how it's going to happen — you try to protect yourself as well as you can."

Bruce's last hit with Seattle was memorable, his 300th home run on Friday, against the Los Angeles Angels. He is one of eight active players with at least 300 home runs and 300 doubles. □

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Patrick Cantlay rallies from 4 back to win the Memorial



Jack Nicklaus, left, presents Patrick Cantlay with the trophy after Cantlay won the Memorial golf tournament Sunday, June 2, 2019, in Dublin, Ohio.

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP) — Jack Nicklaus is a gracious tournament host at the Memorial who doesn't mince words, and it paid off for Patrick Cantlay.

When they bumped into each other earlier in the week in the grill room, Nicklaus told him he had to learn how to finish. And then when Cantlay saw him again at lunch going into the weekend, Nicklaus told him how.

Nicklaus said to have fun, to look around at all the fans having a great time, to relax and to go win the golf tournament.

Cantlay had a blast Sunday with the best closing round by a winner in the 44 years of the Memorial. He rallied from four shots behind with an 8-under 64, a round so under control that Cantlay's longest putt for par was from 8 feet on

the final hole, with Nicklaus watching behind the 18th green.

He poured it in to secure a two-shot victory over Adam Scott.

"I finished it," Cantlay said to Nicklaus as he walked off the green.

Martin Kaymer, trying to end five years without a victory, started with a two-shot lead and never recovered from a four-hole stretch on the back nine when he made consecutive bogeys and failed to birdie the par-5 15th. He closed with a 72 and finished third.

Scott was the last player to have a chance and ran off three straight birdies until narrowly missing birdie putts on the last two holes. He shot 68.

"Being able to win on this golf course, in front of Jack, making that putt on the last hole, I can't tell you how good it feels," he said.

Engaging in private,

Cantlay doesn't smile much on the golf course and isn't about to force one. But the advice from Nicklaus — Cantlay first met him when he won the Jack Nicklaus Award as the nation's best college player in 2011 — stuck with him.

Look around, soak it up and enjoy it.

"I definitely said that to myself down the stretch today on the back nine," said Cantlay, who finished at 19-under 269. "It put me a little more at ease, and I hit a lot of really nice, quality shots with the lead."

Cantlay first caught Kaymer with a 3-wood to 10 feet for a two-putt birdie on the 11th. Kaymer, in the group behind him, matched the birdie. That was his last one. Cantlay followed with an 18-foot birdie putt on No. 14 and a 5-iron that set up a long two-putt birdie on the par-5 15th.

By then, Kaymer was mak-

ing bogeys and Scott was stuck in neutral until it was too late.

"I knew that you can't really make any mistakes coming down the stretch," said Kaymer, whose last victory was by eight shots in the 2014 U.S. Open at Pinehurst No. 2. "But all credit to Patrick. He played a great round of golf. He deserved to win — 19-under par is amazing."

Scott finished at 19 under at Torrey Pines and lost two by to Justin Rose. He was 17 under at the Memorial — only six players have done better at Muirfield Village, one of them being Cantlay on Sunday.

"It's disappointing not to win, for sure," Scott said. "I really played good golf this week, and it just wasn't good enough."

Cantlay's only disappointment was that it took him 19 months to win for the second time on the PGA

Tour. But then, he hasn't been around as long as it seems. Cantlay was low amateur in the 2011 U.S. Open, and the next week shot a 60 at the Travelers Championship.

But his career took a severe turn on and off the golf course, first with a back injury that kept him out of golf entirely for two full years and left him wondering if he would ever make it back. Then, he was out of dinner one night with his best friend and caddie, Chris Roth, when Roth was stuck by a car and killed. Cantlay says it changed him as a person, but he keeps that separate from his golf.

His golf has been good for a long time, and this was a big step. There some atonement at Muirfield Village for Cantlay. A year ago, he took a two-shot lead to the back nine and didn't make a birdie the rest of the way, missing a playoff by one shot. This time, he putted for birdie on every hole on the back nine until the 18th.

"I was looking for a little redemption this week," Cantlay said. "And that has to do with me feeling really comfortable on the golf course and liking it a lot. Not to mention I've been playing really well, so it feels like a win has been coming. You always have to put yourself in contention. And you start winning a couple, and you figure out how to do it, and hopefully it keeps happening."

Tiger Woods knew he had no chance to win the Memorial from 11 shots behind going into the final round, though he still put on a show and got what he needed out of his final event before the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach. He went out in 31 and was 7 under for his round through 12 holes until a sloppy bogey on the 14th and a closing bogey for a 67. He wound up in a tie for ninth at 9-under 279.

"The goal today was to get to double digits (under par) and get something positive going into the Open," he said. "I got to double digits, I just didn't stay there." □



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Kyle Busch

Continued from Page 18

So, Kyle. Why so glum?
"Am I a positive person," Busch asked. "It's rare."
Busch's enthusiasm was tempered by another race where NASCAR's rules package put passing at a minimum and made it laborious to watch 400 miles of racing. Never one to back down from his opinion, Busch has put the package on blast all season and dodged a fine from NASCAR earlier this month for an expletive-riddled rant about the new rules.
"Stop asking me package questions! I'm done answering them," he snapped at Pocono. "Next."
NASCAR's current rules package was designed to increase side-by-side racing and manufacture competition. Busch made one competitive pass for the lead when he zipped past Clint Bowyer on lap 75 and never really looked back as he closed on his first win in nearly two months. Busch took off on the final restart with nine laps left and cruised to the finish line for his 13th top-10 finish in 14 races this season.

When NASCAR haters point fingers and say racing is just cars going in circles, Sunday at Pocono can be Exhibit A.

Even Fox broadcaster Mike Joy threw up his hands as Busch took the checkered flag: "I don't want to say they made it look easy, but they certainly didn't give us a lot to talk about."

Busch, who topped 200 career wins across all three national series earlier this season, is certainly the rare talent who can make most wins look easy in any season or under any package. But Busch has been especially prickly and stood out as the most vocal critical



Kyle Busch celebrates in victory lane after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Pocono Raceway, Sunday, June 2, 2019, in Long Pond, Pa.

among many drivers who have groused about the racing this season.

"There's days that I get ultimately frustrated because I don't feel like my true talents can show on the race track because I'm too limited by the air of everything that's kind of going around me," Busch said. "I can't do anything. As a race car driver, when you can't do anything, and you can't showcase what your abilities are and how good you should be, then there's certainly some tense moments and high frustrations."

And that's from the winner. "Yeah, so?" Busch retorted. It was still another wildly successful day for Joe Gibbs Racing: Busch won, Erik Jones was third and Denny Hamlin was sixth. Martin Truex Jr. had a fast car and looked like a contender until engine woes knocked him out of the race. Hamlin opened the season with a win in the Daytona 500 in

memory of J.D. Gibbs, Joe's son who died earlier this year following a long battle with a degenerative neurological disease. JGR has been the class of NASCAR with a series-best nine wins and Gibbs was elected this month to the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

But a rules package that overshadowed the finish stained one more celebratory day at JGR.

"It's not that it's hard to pass, it's impossible," Hamlin said.

Here's what else happened at Pocono.

COME CLOSE

Brad Keselowski was second, Chase Elliott fourth and Bowyer fifth.

LET'S RACE TWO!

Pocono is to set host a Cup Series doubleheader weekend next season. The track traditionally has two NASCAR weekends but surrendered one to try the double June 27 and 28, 2020. The weekend will also include a

Truck Series and Xfinity Series race, making it the busiest 48 hours in motorsports. The Cup races will likely be shorter than the usual 400-milers run at the 2 1/2-mile track.

Pocono CEO Nick Igdalsky said it was his "full intention to lobby for the 400s." The track will hold two oval Cup races and Igdalsky said the track has "no intention" of switching one of the races to its road course configuration. Igdalsky said NASCAR was still trying to figure out the qualifying procedures. "It's an opportunity to do something pretty creative," Igdalsky said.

Igdalsky said Pocono was approached by NASCAR over the Daytona 500 weekend about the idea of running a twinbill.

"I feel this initiative is important enough where it would last for more than one year," he said. "Getting a one-year shot at this just doesn't seem realistic

to me. I anticipate us trying this for a couple of years and see where it ends up." Pocono said it will not raise ticket prices for next season, and kids 12 and under can still attend a race for free.

NASCAR recently announced the \$2 billion purchase of International Speedway Corp., an aggressive move to gain control of key racetracks. The family-owned raceway is not for sale.

"Open for bids? Hell no," Igdalsky said. "I always like hearing the numbers, but I can't see any number that anybody would dangle in front of us that would make us interested. We love being a part of it. We're here to continue a legacy."

UP NEXT

The series heads to Michigan International Speedway where Clint Bowyer is the defending race winner. Hamlin promised a better race at Michigan. □

Stan the Man: Wawrinka's 5-set French win gets him Federer

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP Tennis Writer

PARIS (AP) — This is why Stan Wawrinka went through two operations on his left knee in the span of a month. Why he dealt with the rigors of rehabilitating that joint.

Why he did all the work, on and off the court, required to get back on the grind, to raise his ranking from outside the top 250, to matter again in the sport he loves. So he could participate in, and win, matches like the 5-hour, 9-minute test of excellence, endurance and emotions that the 34-year-old Wawrinka barely claimed against the 20-year-old, caked-in-clay Stefanos Tsitsipas by a 7-6 (6), 5-7, 6-4, 3-6, 8-6 score Sunday at the French Open to reach a Grand Slam quarterfinal for the first time in two years.

And so he could advance to what comes now: a matchup Tuesday against his friend and countryman Roger Federer, who hasn't dropped a set so far in the tournament.

"That's the reason why came back. ... I love and enjoy to play in front of people, to play in the biggest tournaments you can play. Today was something really special," said Wawrinka, who won the 2015 championship at Roland Garros for



Switzerland's Stan Wawrinka celebrates winning his fourth round match of the French Open tennis tournament against Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas in five sets, 7-6 (8-6), 5-7, 6-4, 3-6, 8-6, at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Sunday, June 2, 2019.

one of his three major trophies. "For sure, when I'm on the court, I try to enjoy and remember, also, everything I have done to be here."

Exhausted as he was by a match finally decided by a backhand that floated past Tsitsipas and landed on the outside edge of a line, Wawrinka still possessed the energy to joke about facing Federer, who has won 22 of their previous 25 meetings.

When a reporter, perhaps trying to offer some hope,

pointed out that Federer, 37, is the older man, Wawrinka smiled and responded: "Yeah, but he is much better than me, also. So never forget that."

The No. 6-seeded Tsitsipas was not in any mood to laugh: He said this close-as-can-be loss — he accumulated more total points, 195-194 — caused him to shed post-match tears for the first time in a long time. "Never experienced something like this in my life. I feel very disappointed," said Tsitsipas, who upset Feder-

er at the Australian Open in January en route to his first Grand Slam semifinal. "Emotionally, wasn't easy to handle. I will try to learn from it as much as I can." Asked moments later what lessons he might have gleaned, Tsitsipas looked blankly ahead and answered in a monotone: "I have no idea. My mind is so empty right now. I cannot even think, so I don't know."

As the sun blazed, unobstructed by clouds, and the temperature soared

toward 85 degrees Fahrenheit (30 Celsius), Wawrinka and the diving-for-volleys Tsitsipas provided by far the best theater around the grounds.

Spectators at Court Suzanne Lenglen cheered wildly for Wawrinka when he egged them on, cupping his ear or flapping his arms or even blowing a kiss. Tsitsipas' electric, net-rushing style earned support, too, although he chastised himself early on for playing "like a freaking zombie!"

The key, ultimately, was this: Wawrinka saved 22 of 27 break points, including 8 of 8 in the fifth set.

"I was so close. So close. I gave him room to do whatever he likes, all those break points," Tsitsipas said, pausing frequently between words. "So many break points. So many."

Nothing quite so riveting earlier, when Federer beat 68th-ranked Leonardo Mayer of Argentina 6-2, 6-3, 6-3 to become the oldest men's singles quarterfinalist in Paris since 1971.

Federer is back at Roland Garros for the first time since 2015, when he lost to Wawrinka in the quarterfinals. They've known each other forever, basically, and paired up to win a doubles gold medal for Switzerland at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. □

Carapaz wins Giro d'Italia, Haga clinches final stage



Ecuador's Richard Carapaz poses with the trophy after winning the Giro D'Italia cycling race, in the Verona Arena, Italy, Sunday, June 2, 2019.

Associated Press

VERONA, Italy (AP) — Richard Carapaz became Ecuador's first Grand Tour champion as he won the Giro d'Italia on Sunday, while American Chad Haga was fastest on the final stage's individual time trial.

Carapaz, who rides for Movistar, keeled over his handlebars with emotion inside the Arena di Verona after the 17-kilometer (10.5-mile) route.

The 26-year-old Carapaz has worn the leader's pink jersey since winning the grueling 14th stage on May 25.

"This is the biggest moment of my sporting life," Carapaz said. "In this final time trial I just suffered from start to finish until I reached the arena of Verona. It's fabulous to win the Giro d'Italia."

The Ecuadorian finished the three-week race one minute, five seconds ahead of home favorite Vincenzo Nibali and 2:30 ahead of Slovenian cyclist Primož Roglič,

who leapfrogged Mikel Landa into third spot.

"I don't have any regrets, we all had a good Giro d'Italia, which was very hard-fought," Nibali said. "I had great rivals, Carapaz showed he is strong and that he deserved it ... Carapaz didn't steal anything, he was really strong."

Both Carapaz and Nibali took their children onto the podium with them as they collected their trophies.

Carapaz's parents had also flown over from Ecuador and revealed it was the first time they had been on a plane.

Haga had told his wife to stay at home. "Maybe that was a mistake," the Team Sunweb cyclist said as he smiled through tears of joy in a post-race interview. "This is for everyone who believed in me and supported me and sacrificed for me."

"I gave everything today and to finally win ... it's very special."

Fat chance: Ruiz set to reign as heavyweight champion

By DAN GELSTON

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Andy Ruiz Jr. could have passed for any New Yorker, just a roly-poly guy in a too-tight Knicks jersey and sideways baseball cap weaving his way through a crowded sidewalk on his way back to the hotel. But those people were there cheering for Ruiz, outstretched arms for selfies, pats on the back, asking for autographs and a few fans yelling “Mexican pride!”

Maybe the boxing world didn’t know much about Ruiz before he was nearly booed out of Madison Square Garden as he stepped into the ring against undefeated champion Anthony Joshua. But they learned a whole lot more after he stepped out a champion, posing for pictures with the WBA/IBF/WBO/IBO championship title belts draped over his arms — an appropriate number, one for each time he flattened Joshua at the Garden.

“It’s an upset, isn’t it,” Joshua said. “The bookies said I was a favorite. One shot on top of the dome kind of rattled me a bit. But the better man won. Respect to Andy. Now I move forward.”

Ruiz, the first fighter of Mexican descent to win a heavyweight title, stirred memories of Buster Douglas and other heavyweight shockers when the massive underdog knocked down Joshua twice in the third round and two more times in the decisive seventh to stake his claim to shares of the heavyweight crown. Debate the health or relevance of boxing all you want, but for a night, at an electric Garden stuffed with celebs and 20,000 singing, roaring fans, there was no better place to be in sports.

Most casual sports fans couldn’t name a modern boxer outside of Floyd Mayweather Jr., and there were plenty of fans wearing Mike Tyson and Muhammad Ali shirts at the Garden, the mystique of boxing’s past that often swallows the

present stirring in the home of some of boxing’s most historic bouts. The 29-year-old Ruiz already has at-

Ruiz, a portly fighter out of Southern California, has an affable personality and earned the last-minute title

ter fight and I will beat Anthony Joshua.” Hearn agreed to the pitch and a main event was

this year. “Now that I have this time, I want to get in shape and look like a Mexican Anthony,” Ruiz said, laughing. “But I was ready for war. I was ready for all 12 rounds.”

Is the heavyweight division ready for the upheaval ahead?

Joshua was positioned as the star of the division, and the British fighter made his fight debut in the United States to great fanfare. Joshua milked the applause of the crowd and soaked in the spotlight as he walked to the ring. His win seemingly a mere formality, Joshua knew bigger, lucrative bouts against the likes of Tyson Fury and Deontay Wilder were on the horizon. The oft-ignored heavyweight division got a boost over the last few years and any combination of Joshua, Wilder and Fury fights would mean big business and title unification in the muddled mix of boxing organizations.

Wilder, owner of the WBC crown, decided to give Luis Ortiz a rematch. Ortiz battered Wilder for parts of their fight in early 2018 before running out of gas and getting knocked out. Wilder tried to steal the headlines this week when he announced his rematch with Fury was set for 2020. Wilder and Fury fought to a split draw in December in Los Angeles, with Wilder retaining his WBC heavyweight title after knocking down his British challenger twice.

“Naturally, you’re going to speak about Wilder and Fury,” Joshua said. “That’s how it is. Why would I try and block out the fact that there’s other competition out there? I still want to compete. That’s why I ask, what’s next?”

For Joshua, it’s back to challenger status, a setback that will cost him the megafight he craved this year.

And for Ruiz? The Mexican everyman who looks more fit for Saturday morning sparring at the YMCA than holding boxing’s biggest prize must prove he’s no one-fight wonder like Douglas. □



Andy Ruiz knocks down Anthony Joshua during the third round of a heavyweight championship boxing match Saturday, June 1, 2019, in New York. Ruiz won in the seventh round.

Associated Press

tracted some A-list fans — The Rock and Conor McGregor tweeted congratulations — and could score more if he can stretch his 15 minutes into a few successful title defenses.

“I think it’s going to do a lot for my community, for Mexico,” Ruiz said. “Now they can say that they have the first Mexican heavyweight champion of the world. I’m just happy that it’s me.”

shot (after Jarrell Miller’s failed drug tests booted him to the sideline) not through angry made-for-TV demands or even convincing KO’s through the ranks. Instead, he got bold and sent promoter Eddie Hearn a direct message on Instagram asking for a shot that said, “Give me this fight, I will fight harder than any of the names you’ve mentioned, I will give you a bet-

hatched. Ruiz, knocked down in the third round, is quick to make fun of his girth — his generously listed 270 pounds puts the heavy in heavyweight. His trunks sat a bit too low for his flabby frame as he faced off against the chiseled Joshua. With four championship belts in front of him on a table, Ruiz said he would get in shape for an expected rematch later

Google's activities under scrutiny by US, Europe regulators

By **MARCY GORDON**

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Google, the tech giant known universally for its search engine, also has fingers in a number of other pies, like online advertising, email messaging and video. That gives U.S. anti-trust enforcers, who have reportedly evinced a new interest in pursuing competition charges against Google, lots to look at.

Governments around the world are becoming increasingly unnerved by the power amassed by major technology companies — with the dominance of Google in search, Facebook in social networking and Amazon in e-commerce raising the sharpest concerns. In the most dramatic scenario, a case might be made for breaking the companies into smaller pieces.

The U.S. Justice Department is readying an investigation of Google's business practices in search and other areas, and whether they violate antitrust law, according to news reports. Neither the company nor the Justice Department will confirm or deny that a probe has been launched. The Federal Trade Commission, which shares competition oversight with Justice, made an antitrust investigation of Google but closed it in 2013 without taking action.



This March 23, 2010, file photo shows the Google logo at the Google headquarters in Brussels. Google, the tech giant known universally for its search engine, also has fingers in a number of other pies, like online advertising, email messaging and video.

The company made changes voluntarily after the FTC probe, including letting advertisers use information from their Google ad campaigns to create campaigns with rivals. But an FTC staff report released years later showed that the agency staff had urged the presidentially-appointed commissioners to bring a lawsuit against Google. That never happened. It isn't clear what specific areas of Google's business the Justice Department might be probing. But here are some possible areas U.S. antitrust cops might poke into.

ADS

Google commands the

lead in digital ad revenue by a wide margin, controlling 31.1% of global digital ad dollars, according to eMarketer's 2019 estimates. Facebook is a distant second with 20.2%.

European antitrust regulators slapped Google in March with a \$1.7 billion fine for freezing out rivals in the online advertising business — the regulators' third big fine against the company in less than two years. Still, the latest penalty isn't likely to have much effect on Google's business. It applies to a narrow portion of Google's ad business in which Google sells ads next to Google search results on third-party websites. It involves practices the com-

pany says it already ended, and the amount is just a fraction of the \$31 billion in profit that its parent, conglomerate Alphabet Inc., made last year.

Associated Press

SEARCH RESULTS

Google's search engine handles two out of every three queries in the U.S. European regulators have found that Google manipulated its search engine to gain an unfair advantage over other online shopping sites in the lucrative e-commerce market, fining the company \$2.8 billion. Google disputes those findings and is still appealing the 2017 decision.

The FTC staff report released after the agency's

investigation showed that the staff legal recommendations rejected by the commissioners involved allegations of Google tinkering with its search results in a way that stifled competition.

Lawmakers from both parties appear determined to examine whether Google rigs its search results to also promote its own political agenda.

ANDROID ANTICS

Another huge antitrust fine from the European overseers, \$5 billion, came against Google in July 2018 for a finding that it abused the dominance of its Android operating system by forcing handset and tablet makers to install Google apps, reducing consumer choice.

The company appealed the ruling and also made changes to avoid additional fines. It started this spring giving European Union smartphone users a choice of browsers and search apps on Android. Following an Android update, users will be shown two new screens giving them the new options.

Android users who open the Google Play store after the update will be given the option to install as many as five search apps and five browsers. Apps are included based on their popularity and shown in random order. □

U.S. now seeking social media details from all visa applicants

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department is now requiring nearly all applicants for U.S. visas to submit their social media usernames, previous email addresses and phone numbers. It's a vast expansion of the Trump administration's enhanced screening of potential immigrants and visitors.

In a move that's just taken effect after approval of the revised application forms, the department says it has updated its immigrant and nonimmigrant visa forms to request the additional information, including "social media identifiers," from al-

most all U.S. applicants.

The change, which was proposed in March 2018, is expected to affect about 15 million foreigners who apply for visas to enter the United States each year.

"National security is our top priority when adjudicating visa applications, and every prospective traveler and immigrant to the United States undergoes extensive security screening," the department said. "We are constantly working to find mechanisms to improve our screening processes to protect U.S. citizens, while supporting legitimate travel

to the United States."

Social media, email and phone number histories had only been sought in the past from applicants who were identified for extra scrutiny, such as people who'd traveled to areas controlled by terrorist organizations. An estimated 65,000 applicants per year had fallen into that category.

The department says collecting the additional information from more applicants "will strengthen our process for vetting these applicants and confirming their identity."

The new rules apply to virtually all applicants for immigrant and nonimmigrant visas. When it filed its initial notice to make the change, the department estimated it would affect 710,000 immigrant visa applicants and 14 million nonimmigrant visa applicants, including those who want to come to the U.S. for business or education.

The new visa application forms list a number of social media platforms and require the applicant to provide any account names they may have had on them over the previous five

years. They also give applicants the option to volunteer information about social media accounts on platforms not listed on the form. In addition to their social media histories, visa applicants are now asked for five years of previously used telephone numbers, email addresses, international travel and deportation status, as well as whether any family members have been involved in terrorist activities.

Only applicants for certain diplomatic and official visa types are exempted from the requirements. □



In this July 18, 2018, file photo, United Airlines commercial jets sit at a gate at Terminal C of Newark Liberty International Airport in Newark, N.J.

Associated Press

Airlines downgrade 2019 forecast amid trade spats, fuel hike

BY FRANK JORDANS
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — The International Air Transport Association is lowering its 2019 profit forecast for the airline industry amid rising fuel prices and weakening world trade.

The Montreal-based IATA said airlines are expected to earn \$28 billion this year, down from the \$35.5 billion it had predicted in December. "Margins are being squeezed by rising costs right across the board, including labor, fuel, and infrastructure," the industry body said in a statement Sunday at its annual meeting in Seoul.

It said competition among airlines remains stiff and "weakening of global trade is likely to continue as the U.S.-China trade war intensifies," primarily affecting the cargo business, although passenger traffic could also be hit if tensions rise. Addressing concerns over two deadly passenger plane crashes involving Boeing's 737 Max model, IATA's director-general said the disasters "have put our reputation in the spotlight." "Investigations will ultimately reveal the cause. And a remedy will be found," Alexandre de Juniac said, according to a transcript of his speech on IATA's

website. The 737 Max was grounded after the crash of an Ethiopian Airlines jet in mid-March. A Lion Air Max crashed in October off the Indonesian coast. In all, 346 people died.

"The consequences of these tragedies, however, go far beyond the technical," he said. "Trust in the certification system has been damaged — among regulators, between regulators and the industry and with the flying public."

De Juniac called for confidence to be restored in the way that civil aircrafts are certified by aviation authorities and for better coordination among regulators and industry when accidents occur and swift action needs to be taken.

"People were confused as grounding decisions rolled out in some markets while it was business as usual in others," he told the meeting. "Put yourselves in the shoes of travelers and I am sure anyone would expect better." IATA members at the meeting also backed a plan that will cap net emissions of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide from international aviation at 2020 levels. Airlines will have to spend money on carbon reduction measures elsewhere to offset excess emissions. □



In this Aug. 9, 2016 file photo, an avocado vendor talks on his cellphone at a market in Mexico City. Summary: The potential Trump tariffs are expected to hit U.S. avocado lovers more than Mexican producers.

Associated Press

Mexican avocado growers expect U.S. consumers to bear tariffs

By ARTURO PEREZ and AMY GUTHRIE
Associated Press

URUAPAN, Mexico (AP) — The baby avocados in Enrique Bautista's vast orchard in western Mexico will grow to maturity, eventually, and be shipped out of Mexico.

What remains to be seen is how many of those green gems will reach consumers in the United States if President Donald Trump makes good on his promise to slap duties on Mexican exports should the country fail to stem the tide of immigrants trying to reach the U.S.

The potential Trump tariffs would hit U.S. avocado lovers more than Mexican producers, Bautista said. Demand north of the border for Mexican avocados has proven very static: even when prices expand four-fold during the year, the fruit is still scooped up by U.S. devotees of avocado toast and guacamole.

Producers in Mexico believe a 5% — or even 25% — U.S. tariff on avocados will do little to dampen their sales.

"I think the bigger risk is for U.S. consumers" having to pay higher prices, said Bautista, 69, a second-generation avocado grower whose father was an early exporter of the fruit that has become a staple in the diets of millions of Americans. The popularity of avocados has won the spreadable

fruit the nickname "green gold" in Mexico, the world's top producer.

The U.S. is the top export market for Mexican avocados, according to USDA data, consuming more than 74% of total exports. Japan absorbs at least 6% and Canada another 7% of the Mexican crop.

"Fortunately, the avocado is a fruit that's in demand more every day around the world, that's consumed in many other countries," said Bautista, who gave The Associated Press a tour of his orchard in Uruapan in Michoacan state on Saturday.

His avocados are shipped entirely to the U.S.

Mexican orchards yield 11 avocados for every one picked in California. Mexico also produces year-round, versus California's usual eight-month season. Production in California typically covers U.S. demand for avocados this time of year.

But the 2019 crop in California was weak, with some growers reporting total failures due to record high temperatures last summer that destroyed much of the young fruit before maturity. The California avocado season also started late, so Mexican producers have shipped much of their produce north since April in what is considered low season for Mexican avocados. "We are living in a sellers'

market," said Humberto Solorzano, a third-generation avocado producer also in Michoacan, where 80% of Mexican avocados are grown.

A weakening peso will shield U.S. consumers from higher avocado prices in the near-term, Solorzano figured, but eventually the cost of any tariffs would be absorbed throughout the supply chain, landing mostly on U.S. consumers. The peso plunged more than 3% against the dollar on Friday in the wake of Trump's tweet promising tariffs on all Mexican goods.

On Friday, Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador dispatched his foreign secretary to Washington to try to negotiate a truce and point out what Mexico has done to stem the flow of migrants.

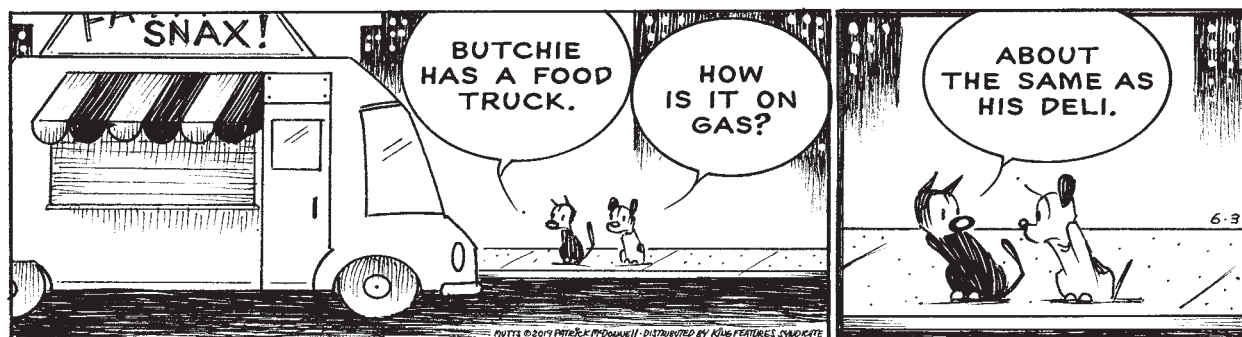
It has stepped up raids on migrant caravans traveling through the southern states of Chiapas and Oaxaca this year.

It has deported thousands of migrants and frustrated thousands more who wait endlessly for permits that would allow them to travel legally through Mexico.

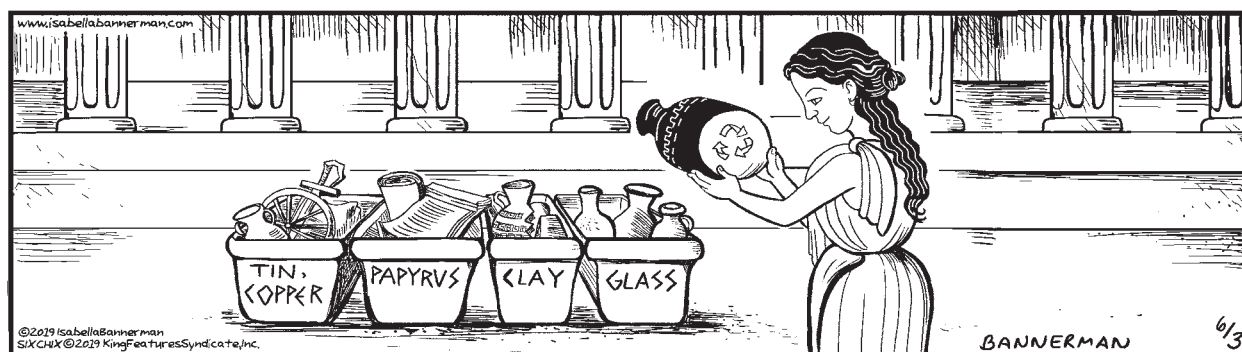
Trump's tariff threat has also received pushback from U.S. businesses that rely on Mexican production.

Solorzano said exporters are looking for assurance despite the avocado's privileged status as a "super-food." □

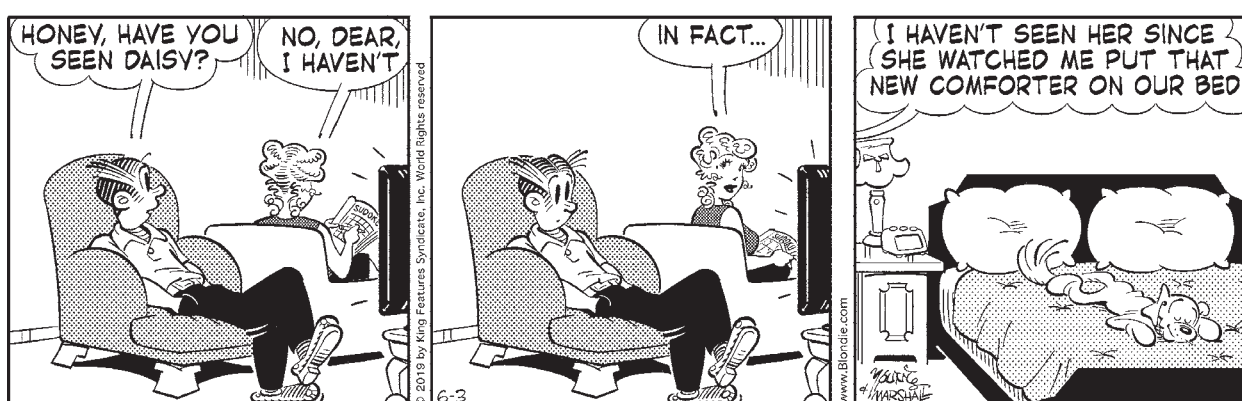
Mutts



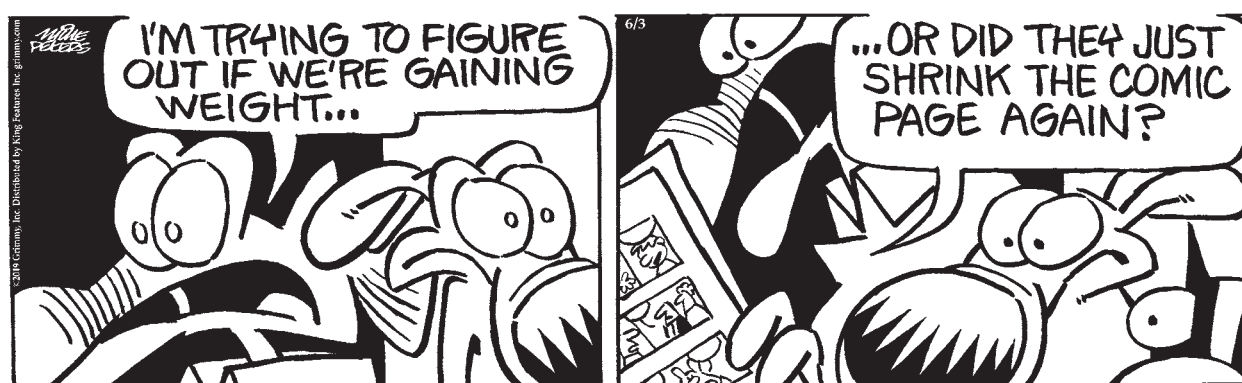
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

9		8					1	5
	2		3		6			4
4			1	8	9			
	8	4				9	6	
		1		4		5		
	7	5				4	3	
			4	2	8			9
8			5		1		7	
5	1					3		8

Difficulty Level ★

6/03

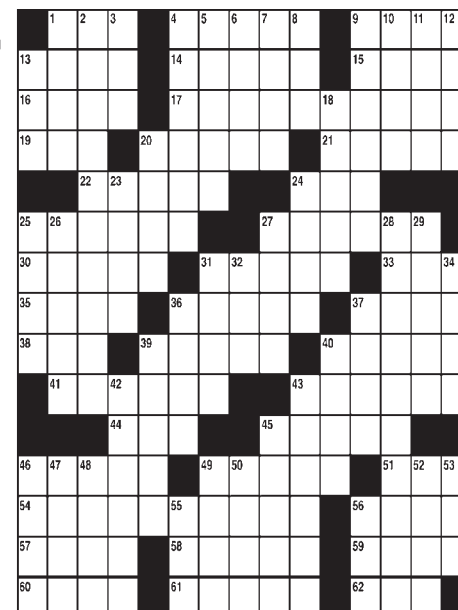
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

1	8	5	2	9	7	4	6	3
4	2	6	1	8	3	9	7	5
7	9	3	5	4	6	1	2	8
5	6	8	4	7	2	3	1	9
9	3	7	8	1	5	2	4	6
2	1	4	6	3	9	8	5	7
6	5	1	3	2	8	7	9	4
8	4	9	7	5	1	6	3	2
3	7	2	9	6	4	5	8	1

ACROSS

- Dinner in the barn
- Tire in the trunk
- Boast
- Small rodents
- Refreshing drinks
- British nobleman
- Rainbows
- Opposition
- Peg for Tiger
- Actor Matt
- "_ World Turns"
- Jumps
- To _; namely
- Candle shop delights
- Sight, hearing, taste, etc.
- Chutzpah
- Assembly of battleships
- Bigwig, for short
- Call it _; quit & go home
- Beg
- Virginia _; lively dance
- Mrs. Nixon
- Blossom
- Wild Australian dog
- Recover losses
- Bathed
- Remain behind
- Warm jacket
- Up and about
- TV's "Kate & _"
- Org. for Kings & Wizards
- Indirect
- First person
- Actress _-Na Wen
- Piece of china
- Lunch shop
- Kill
- Caruso or Pavarotti
- Unusual



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

6/3/19

6 Too

- Picnic spoiler
- Suffix for heir or giant
- Wild animals
- Angry speech
- Part of the foot
- Delight
- Floor pad
- Besmirch
- Go out with
- 1 of 7 deadly sins
- Garden intruder
- Clothing fastener
- Fragrant wood
- Stitched joining
- Fair; impartial
- Military attack
- Complete failure
- Early August
- Like clothes with static
- Walk with heavy steps
- Sink stopper
- Hazard
- Simple reply
- Leftover bits
- Odes & limericks

DOWN

- Bring on board
- Speed up
- Simple reply
- Leftover bits
- Odes & limericks

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

STUN	ATOP	PROM
LINED	DOUR	RIPA
UNITE	ANTIDOTES	
RAM	MOM	MOMENT
PEONS	PUP	
BERATE	PISTOL	
ERASE	PLANE	VAT
ENVY	THING	ZERO
PIE	PRIES	DIRGE
EDDIES	MINCED	
ONA	FINCH	
ASSETS	ITE	ADD
REASSURED	RARER	
TERN	RENE	SIGMA
SKIT	EVEL	LEST

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6/3/19

- Suffix for laugh or loud
- Money lent
- Hairless
- "What Kind of Fool _?"
- Isn't _ to; probably won't
- Fuss

Texas governor signs state ban on red-light traffic cameras

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has signed a bill into law banning red-light traffic cameras in the nation's second-largest state.

Abbott tweeted Saturday that he signed off on the ban, which takes effect Sept. 1.

Such cameras take images of vehicles entering intersections when red stoplights are lit. Drivers are usually fined \$75.

Critics say red-light cameras are unconstitutional and contribute to traffic accidents. Supporters say red-light cameras help make streets safer and generate funds for cities and other government entities.

An amendment lets cities keep operating the cameras until their contracts with vendors expire, although some communities have begun negotiations to terminate the deals earlier. The law also prevents counties and Texas officials from refusing to register a vehicle amid unpaid red-light camera tickets. □



**No Plastic,
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The Government of Aruba officially announces that the import, production and selling of plastic, oxybenzone and styrofoam are forbidden per January 1st, 2019. Sanctions will apply from January 1st, 2020.



TODAY BONDIA

How to reach us!

Downtown

Classifieds

Halley Time Travel

Marriott Ocean Club

Platinum Season

1 BR OceanView \$12 K
1 BR OceanFront \$18 K
2 BR OceanView \$18 K
2 BR OceanFront \$28 K
Gold season
1 BR OceanView \$6 K
2 BR OceanView \$8 K
2 BR OceanFront \$12 K

Marriott Surf Club

Platinum season

2 BR Garden View \$15 K
2 BR Ocean View \$17 K
2 BR Ocean side \$18 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$27 K
3 BR Ocean View \$28 K

Marriott Surf Club

Gold Season

2 BR Garden View \$7 K
2 BR Ocean View \$8 K
2 BR Ocean Side \$9 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$12 K
3 BR Ocean View \$15 K

Casa Del Mar

2 BR wk # 20 Ground Floor
pool/ocean view \$8 K

Divi Village

studio wk # 21 building B
3rd floor 30 weeks remain \$3 K

Amsterdam Manor

1 BR wk # 22 5th Floor
pool/ocean view \$4 K
rent \$1000

Divi Village

2 BR Town House
wk #24 Building C 3rd floor
elevator 39 weeks remain \$13 K

Marriott Grand Chateau

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Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

Editor in Chief

Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

Editors

Richard Brooks
Jencarlo Trinidad

Sales

Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Cristian Soto Garcia
Pilar Flores
Juan Luis Pinto

Columnists

Anthony Croes
Joris Zantvoort
Shanella Pantophlet
Steve Francees
Thais Franken

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
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OTHER

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

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EMERGENCY

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Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

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American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

CRUISES



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Freedom of the Seas
June 5
Monarch

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Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Women in Difficulties
Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

Companies report progress on blood tests to detect cancer

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Chief Medical Writer

A California company says its experimental blood test was able to detect many types of cancer at an early stage and gave very few false alarms in a study that included people with and without the disease.

Grail Inc. gave results in a news release on Friday and will report them Saturday at the American Society of Clinical Oncology meeting in Chicago. They have not been published in a journal or reviewed by other scientists.

Many companies are trying to develop early detection "liquid biopsy" tests that capture bits of DNA that cancer cells shed into blood.

On Thursday, Johns Hopkins University scientists launched a company called Thrive Earlier Detection Corp. to develop its CancerSEEK test, which yielded results similar to Grail's more than a year ago.

Grail is closely watched because of the extraordinary investment it's attracted — more than \$1 billion from Jeff Bezos, Bill Gates and other celebrities.

The new results included 2,300 people, 60% with



In this Tuesday, April 28, 2015 file photo, a patient has her blood drawn at a hospital in Philadelphia to monitor her cancer treatment.

cancer and 40% not known to have it. The test detected 55% of known cancers and gave false alarms for 1%. The detection rate was better — 76% — for a dozen cancers that collectively account for nearly two thirds of cancer deaths in the U.S., including lung, pancreatic, esophageal and ovarian.

The test found only about a third of cancers at the very earliest stage but as many as 84% that had started to

spread but not widely. It also suggested where the cancer may be in 94% of cases and was right about that 90% of the time.

That's the most encouraging part because you don't want to tell people they may have cancer and then need to do a lot of other tests to figure out where, said Dr. Richard Schilsky, chief medical officer of the oncology society.

"They still have a long way to go" to prove the test's

Associated Press
worth as a screening tool, but these results are encouraging, he said.

Dr. Len Lichtenfeld, interim chief medical officer of the American Cancer Society, called the low rate of false alarms "remarkable."

"I have little doubt that in the next several years we're going to have what is probably a true early detection test" but the technology still needs to improve and to be tried in large groups of people without known

cancers where the detection rate may not be as good, he said.

The biggest question, he said, is "will it make a difference in outcomes" such as whether it helps people live longer, the ultimate measure of a screening test's worth.

Grail's test has not been compared to mammography, colonoscopy or other screening tools and is not intended to replace them, said the company's chief scientific officer, Dr. Alex Aravanis. Many deadly cancers that the Grail test detected have no screening tests now, he noted.

It's not clear what evidence the U.S. Food and Drug Administration would require to consider for approval. Sometimes tests can be sold through looser lab accreditation pathways rather than by seeking FDA approval.

Grail and Thrive already have larger studies underway. "We're not going to diagnose every cancer," but may not need to because so many are not found now until it's too late for effective treatment, said Dr. Minetta Liu, a Mayo Clinic cancer specialist who is presenting Grail's results at the cancer conference. □



In this July 16, 2004, file photo, a gray wolf is seen at the Wildlife Science Center in Forest Lake, Minn.

Associated Press

Scientists find flaws in plan to lift U.S. wolf protections

By MATTHEW BROWN and JOHN FLESHER

Associated Press
BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Scientists tasked with reviewing government plans to lift protections for gray wolves across most of the U.S. said in a report released Friday that the proposal has numerous factual errors and other problems.

The five-member scientific panel's conclusions were detailed in a 245-page report delivered to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

One reviewer said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service appeared to have come to a pre-determined conclusion, not supported by its own science, that wolves should come off the endangered species list.

"It looks like they decided to delist and then they compiled all the evidence that they thought supported that decision. It simply doesn't support the decision," said Adrian Treves, an environmental studies professor at the University of Wisconsin.

The findings could undercut the government's contention that gray wolves across the Lower 48 have recovered from near extermination.

Federal officials have been under increasing pressure to put wolves under state management, which is already the case in parts of the Northern Rockies where hunting and trapping of the animals is allowed.

Prohibitions on hunting

elsewhere have fueled resentment against wolves among livestock owners who must deal with attacks by the predators. Also, some hunters see wolves as competition for big game animals.

After being nearly wiped out in the Lower 48 early last century, more than 6,000 gray wolves now live in portions of nine states. The decades-long, government-sponsored recovery effort for the animals has cost roughly \$160 million.

Yet gray wolves remain absent from most of their historical range. Critics of lifting protections say the move would be premature and worry that more hunting will reverse the species' rebound. □

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Celebrities branch out with podcasts of their own

By ALICIA RANCILIO

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Topher Grace has added a lot of skills to his portfolio over the last few weeks.

He learned to beatbox. He officiated a wedding with "Shazam!" star Zachary Levi, and even tried tele-marketing.

He's doing it all for a new role, but it has nothing to do with acting: Instead, he's trying different things in his recently launched podcast called "Minor Adventures with Topher Grace."

"It really is more fun for me than anyone else," said Grace.

"Tig Notaro came on and we did livestock auctioneering," he recalled. "I was so bad at it. But, upon listening back I realized, 'It really doesn't matter if I'm good or not. In fact, it's kind of better if (the adventure) is outside of everyone's comfort zone.'"

Grace is among the growing number of celebrities who are branching out to host their own podcasts. Notables including Lena Dunham, Chelsea Handler, Alyssa Milano, "Power's" Omari Hardwick and "Queer Eye" star Karamo Brown are among those who've launched their own approximately hour-long, weekly shows this year.

And Katharine Schwarzenegger hosts a podcast about rescuing pets.

For some, it's a way to be creative outside of the medium where they are traditionally known.

Hardwick's podcast, on the subscription-based Luminary Network, is called "Poetics." It's dedicated to poetry, which is one of his passions.

At the end of each episode, Hardwick's guests must create original prose inspired by their conversation. It requires guests to dig below the surface and come up with prose based on their emotions and experiences.

"We just kind of talk about their journey, their life and when they found a pen ... and where they see themselves going from that point on," said Hardwick. Guests have included Method

Man, Big Daddy Kane, producer Rodney Jerkins and Dave East.

Others are using podcasts to call attention to things they care about.

Milano was looking for a way to bring attention to people who dedicate their lives to making change, but who aren't famous.

"There are so many people on the ground that fight every single day ... and the only reason why I get (media) interested is because I'm an actress, and that's great," said Milano.

But, she wondered, "How can I use that platform to empower others to make a difference?"

Milano's new podcast, "Sorry Not Sorry," attempts to highlight those change seekers. She speaks to activists including Manuel Olivier, a father who lost son Joaquin in the 2018 school shooting at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas high school, and #MeToo activist Tarna Burke.

Lauren Conrad, who gained fame as an MTV reality star but later branched out to write books, design clothes and take on other projects, has added podcast host to her list with "Asking for a Friend," which features experts in various fields dishing on their work. Most guests are people she's worked with in the past.

"I felt like this was a very cool opportunity to sit down and talk with each of these people about all the things they've taught me," she said.

Grace also appreciates how a podcast allows for a space to share more of himself, but still in a controlled environment. He's rarely appeared in tabloids and was never a paparazzi favorite.

"I started to realize, 'Oh this is a way that I can share something that I love doing in my free time, but still I don't have to talk about anything I don't want to talk about, like family stuff.' (For the record, Grace does mention his wife and baby on the show, but everything is on his terms.)

Others like to use podcasts as a way to share their tal-

ent of getting others to open up. Karamo Brown of "Queer Eye," says the success of the show has made people reach out to him for advice.

His expertise on the series is culture, where he specializes in making people feel better about themselves. With his new podcast, Brown, who used to work as a social worker and psychotherapist, takes questions from real people looking for advice.

Brown says helping people find closure or to feel better, helps him: "I literally feel better about myself, it's contagious."

He believes people feel comfortable opening up to him because he's honest about his own past struggles. □



This combination of photos shows celebrities, top row from left, Alyssa Milano, Karamo Brown, David Tennant, and bottom row from left, Omari Hardwick, Lauren Conrad and Topher Grace, who have launched podcasts.

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This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Vera Farmiga, left, and Millie Bobby Brown in a scene from "Godzilla: King of the Monsters."

Associated Press

A diminished 'Godzilla' still bests 'Rocketman,' 'Ma'

By **JAKE COYLE**
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The latest iteration of the Godzilla franchise took over the top spot from "Aladdin" and roared louder than Elton John at the weekend box office, but it still left a notably smaller footprint on North American theaters than its city-wrecking predecessors.

"Godzilla: King of the Monsters," Warner Bros. and Legendary Entertainment's sequel to 2014's "Godzilla," was brought down to size by poor reviews and middling interest from moviegoers, selling \$49 million in tickets, according to studio estimates Sunday. While still good enough for No. 1, that total was \$10-15 million off industry expectations and close to half of the \$93 million debut of the previous "Godzilla" movie.

Still, the weekend, led by one of the most classic movie monsters, brought Hollywood's summer season into full swing. Last week's top film, Disney's live-action, blue-Will Smith "Aladdin" remake, slid to second with \$42 million in its second weekend.

And a rush of newcomers, including the Elton John biopic "Rocketman" and the Octavia Spencer-led horror film "Ma," swelled theaters with a variety of options.

Dexter Fletcher's fantastical Elton John biopic "Rocketman," starring Taron Egerton, didn't launch with the same bravado as last year's Freddie Mercury biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody."

But it opened solidly in third with \$25 million. The weekend's most profitable release, by percentage, was likely the Blumhouse Production thriller "Ma," which made \$18.2 million against a \$5 million budget.

Even with a toothless "Godzilla," the weekend was up drastically — 62 percent, according to Comscore — from the same weekend last year, when the swiftly forgotten "Solo" was in its second weekend.

Part of the appeal of giant monster films from a studio standpoint is their popularity in Asia. This "Godzilla" fared best in China, opening there with \$70 million. It made \$130 million internationally overall.

But in Godzilla, some see a flagging franchise of unrealized potential. In its three recent blockbuster iterations going back to Gareth Edwards' 1998 Sony release, none have drawn much praise from fans or critics.

This latest one, directed by Michael Dougherty, has a 40 percent fresh rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

Warner Bros. is developing a face-off movie between Godzilla and King Kong, who was last featured in "Kong: Skull Island." That 2017 release opened with \$61 million and went on to make \$566 million worldwide.

Jeff Goldstein, distribution chief for Warner Bros., believes the \$200-million budgeted "King of the Monsters" can keep drawing moviegoers to the studio's ongoing monster franchises.

"The avid fans of Godzilla came out Thursday and Friday," said Goldstein. "The real key for us is how broadly can we expand over the next couple weeks? Can we hold on to an interest that's wider than the regular Godzilla fans? I think we can."

In Godzilla's shadow, counterprogramming thrived. Coming off its acclaimed premiere at the Cannes Film Festival, "Rocketman," which Elton John executive produced, opened well if not spectacularly for Paramount Pictures. The R-rated biopic cost about \$40 million to make.

Aiming to capitalize on the British singer's worldwide appeal, the stars of "Rocketman" have circled the globe ahead of release. It added \$19.2 million internationally.

In Russia, the film's local distributor cut out scenes depicting homosexual activ-

ity and drug use. John and the filmmakers criticized the move as "a sad reflection of the divided world we still live in."

Though "Rocketman" shares much with "Bohemian Rhapsody" — including Fletcher, who helmed the Mercury film after Bryan Singer departed production — its makers have sought to distance it from last year's Oscar-winning \$900-million sensation.

"That movie is a unicorn," Egerton said in Cannes. "Our movie is a different animal."

"Ma," fashioned by Blumhouse as the production company's contemporary answer to "Misery," reteams Spencer with "The Help" director Tate Taylor. Spencer's first solo lead performance drew an especially diverse audience, 57 percent of which was female.

"The best news this weekend was for the industry itself," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore.

"Even if the top movie didn't earn \$100 million, we had a big up weekend and we need more of those to get out of this deficit that we've been in since basically the beginning of the year."

The news, though, wasn't good for "Booksmart," the acclaimed teen comedy starring Beanie Feldstein and Kaitlyn Dever. Amid its disappointing wide-release opening last weekend, director Olivia Wilde appealed on social media for fans to support a movie "made by and about women."

On its second weekend, "Booksmart" couldn't turn it around, earning \$3.3 million on 2,518 screens.

Overseas, Cannes' Palme d'Or winner "Parasite," a social satire from Korean director Bong Joon-ho, opened with \$24.6 million. That was driven largely by stellar sales in South Korea where Bong's raucous thriller easily outpaced "Godzilla." □

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VERA FARMIGA | MILLIE BOBBY BROWN
GODZILLA KING OF THE MONSTERS
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-THU 4:50 | 7:40
FRI 4:50 | 7:40 | 10:30
SAT 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:40 | 10:30
SUN 2:30 | 4:50 | 7:40

PBP MON-FRI 6:20 | 9:10
SAT-SUN 12:45 | 3:30 | 6:20 | 9:10

CXC MON-THU 5:30 | 8:20
FRI 5:30 | 8:20 | 11:10
SAT 2:40 | 5:30 | 8:20 | 11:10
SUN 2:40 | 5:30 | 8:20

SPANISH MON-THU 5:10 | 8:00
FRI 5:10 | 8:00 | 10:50
SAT 2:20 | 5:10 | 8:00 | 10:50
SUN 2:20 | 5:10 | 8:00

TARON EGERTON | JAMIE BELL
ROCKETMAN
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-FRI 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20
SAT-SUN 1:20 | 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20

YIP MON-THU 5:45 | 8:30
FRI 5:45 | 8:30 | 11:15
SAT 3:00 | 5:45 | 8:30 | 11:15
SUN 3:00 | 5:45 | 8:30

OCTAVIA SPENCER | DIANA SILVERS
MA
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PBP MON-THU 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35
FRI 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35 | 11:55
SAT 2:35 | 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35 | 11:55
SUN 2:35 | 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35

KEANU REEVES | HALLE BERRY
CHAPTER JOHN WICK 3 PARABELLUM
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-THU 5:35 | 8:30
FRI 5:35 | 8:30 | 11:00
SAT 2:40 | 5:35 | 8:30 | 11:00
SUN 2:40 | 5:35 | 8:30

PBP MON-THU & SUN 7:50
FRI-SAT 7:50 | 10:40

PBP MON-SUN 6:30 | 9:20

WILL SMITH | MENA MASSOUD
Aladdin
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-FRI 3:55 | 6:45
SAT-SUN 1:05 | 3:55 | 6:45

PH MON-THU 5:50 | 8:40
FRI 5:50 | 8:40 | 11:30
SAT 3:00 | 5:50 | 8:40 | 11:30
SUN 3:00 | 5:50 | 8:40

PBP MON-FRI 3:45
SAT-SUN 1:00 | 3:45

YIP MON-THU 4:40 | 7:30
FRI 4:40 | 7:30 | 10:20
SAT 1:50 | 4:40 | 7:30 | 10:20
SUN 1:50 | 4:40 | 7:30

SPANISH SAT-SUN 3:00

ELIZABETH BANKS | JACKSON A. DUNN
BRIGHTBURN
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-THU & SUN 9:35 | 11:45
FRI-SAT 9:35 | 11:45

ANNE HATHAWAY | REBEL WILSON
THE HUSTLE
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-THU 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:30
FRI 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:30 | 11:45
SAT 2:45 | 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:30 | 11:45
SUN 2:45 | 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:30

RYAN REYNOLDS | JUSTICE SMITH
PIKACHU
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-FRI 4:35
SAT-SUN 2:10 | 4:35

PBP MON-FRI 5:30
SAT 12:55 | 3:10 | 5:30

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Russians criticize heavily edited version of Elton John film

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian gay rights activists and cultural figures are criticizing the local distributor of a new movie about Elton John for cutting scenes in it depicting homosexual activity and drug use.

The deletions became known last week after a Moscow screening of the film "Rocketman."

The Moscow movie theater Pioneer, noted for its adventurous programming, said it would ask for an original cut of the movie with Russian subtitles. But the theater said Sunday it had not received a response from the distributor.

Russian news agencies reported that the distribution company said the scenes were cut to conform with Russian law but that the Ministry of Culture said it was not involved in the decision.

"In this way, the Russian distributor indirectly supports homophobia," the Russian LGBT Network said in a



Director Dexter Fletcher, actor Stephen Graham, musician Elton John, songwriter Bernie Taupin and producer David Furnish, from left to right, pose at the UK Film Premiere of Rocketman at the Odeon Luxe in London, Monday, May 20, 2019.

Facebook statement. "We urge people not to support such a policy and not to go see the Russian version of the film."

Although homosexuality is not criminalized in Russia,

animosity toward gays remains strong. In 2013, the country passed a law banning so-called propaganda supporting non-traditional sexuality from being made available to minors.

Trailers for the Russian version of "Rocketman" showed it carrying a rating restricting it to viewers 18 years or older.

"So, one day we woke up in Saudi Arabia," film critic

Anton Dolin said on Facebook, criticizing the cuts. He said the "most repellent" aspect of the cuts was the removal of the statement at the end of the movie that John eventually found "the love of his life" and has raised children with the man he married in 2014. Nonetheless, Dolin said, "the theme of the hero's homosexuality is still central in the film."

Ksenia Sobchak, a liberal TV star who ran for president in 2016, said purging all homosexual content from a film about the singer would make it meaningless.

A joint statement from John and the filmmakers said "that the local distributor has edited out certain scenes, denying the audience the opportunity to see the film as it was intended, is a sad reflection of the divided world we still live in and how it can still be so cruelly unaccepting of the love between two people." □

Associated Press

Bet responsibly? A struggle for some as sportsbook ads widen

By **WAYNE PARRY**
Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)

— The tagline makes the solution sound so simple: "Gamble responsibly."

It's anything but for those who struggle with compulsive gambling. Instead, the footnote caps a powerful new temptation as ads for sports betting emerge in states that have recently legalized an activity once banned in most of the United States. Sharon, a 39-year-old homemaker, decided with her husband to move from New Jersey to New York specifically to get away from legalized sports betting, but still sees ads frequently that remind her of the tens of thousands of dollars in debt she racked up on a wagering app.

Charlie, an information technology professional from suburban Philadelphia, says the advertisements and easy access makes wagering "tempting as hell," even as his losses mounted to \$400,000 as he bet online while traveling on service calls.

They've complicated addiction recovery for Gary, a real estate agent from New Jersey who attends support group meetings and has lost nearly \$2 million over a lifetime of gambling.

"It seems like every fourth commercial, there's one telling you how easy it is to bet on sports and make money," said Gary, who like other gamblers spoke to The Associated Press on condition that his full name not be used because of stigmas some people associate with unhealthy gambling. "It's right in front of my eyes, and even though I've been in recovery for years and go regularly to Gamblers Anonymous meetings, it's starting to bother me," he said. "I can feel it."

Advertising supporting the nascent sports betting industry has not drawn the same level of scrutiny from regulators and lawmakers in the U.S. as counterparts in Europe, where several countries strictly regulate or even ban gambling ads, including those for sports



In this July 30, 2018 photo, Heather Warker, an employee of the sports betting lounge at Bally's casino in Atlantic City N.J. counts money inside the teller's cage.

betting. One year after the U.S. Supreme Court ended a virtual monopoly in Nevada, eight states have begun taking legal sports wagers. Three states and the District of Columbia have passed laws to create new markets and a handful of legislatures are still considering bills. None of the laws passed has significant restrictions for sports betting ads.

The commercial casino industry wants to keep it that way. The American Gaming Association, the gambling industry's main trade group and lobbying arm, recently issued voluntary guidelines for sports betting advertising in a bid to stay ahead of possible govern-

ment regulation.

Those who struggle with gambling find ads touting Super Bowl or March Madness wagers similar to beer ads tempting those with alcoholism, or fast food ads enticing those with unhealthy eating habits. Though a hurdle for some, the ads are an understandable facet of expanded betting with sportsbooks chasing new customers to bet legally and leisurely, just like millions of people who visit casinos, buy lottery tickets or drink and eat without harmful consequences.

"There's not one commercial break it seems where you don't see one of these ads. As much as I tried to

Associated Press

stop, there are all these incentives: a \$500 free bet, we'll refund your first bet even if you lose. They're everywhere I look," said Sharon, who lives in a New York TV market that's a key target for advertisers of New Jersey sportsbooks. "It's a constant reminder of my problem. There's still this incredible temptation that these ads make worse."

Keith Whyte, executive director of the National Council on Problem Gambling, thinks the details of gambling ads haven't been explored enough.

"In the U.S., if you say, 'Gamble responsibly,' you've now met the responsible gambling standard," Whyte said. "It's go-

ing to be a big issue. There's heightened concern for people struggling with gambling addiction and relapse. And I don't see a lot of discussion about this."

Major sportsbooks all say they train their workers to spot people with potential gambling problems, offering various solutions including self-imposed betting "timeouts" for those who want them. In New Jersey, some money from licensing fees for sports betting fund compulsive gambling treatment programs, and ads are required by state law to mention a 1-800-GAMBLER telephone help line. Regulations in other states are relatively similar.

European regulators are using a heavier hand. In 2018, Italy banned all gambling advertising, Sweden is considering similar restrictions, and in Belgium, online casinos will be banned from advertising on television. England plans to ban all gambling-related ads during live sports starting in August. In the U.S., leagues generally have had a hand in the content of their advertising; not long ago the NFL even stopped ads for Las Vegas casinos from airing nationally during the Super Bowl.

Scott Kaufman-Ross, head of fantasy and gaming for the NBA, said advertising for sports betting is OK "if a fan is interested in betting and they want to bet. But if they're not interested, or if they're a problem gambler, they should not have it thrown in their face."

Charlie, the IT professional, said gambling is often easier than drinking alcohol when he finds himself alone in hotels with nothing to do. "Imagine being an alcoholic sitting home on your couch and there's no beer in the house, and then there's this app that you can press and magically a beer appears," he said. "That's the kind of access that's out there now and it's tempting as hell. It's really, really hard to maintain your recovery and not bet again. Everywhere you look, someone's urging you to gamble." □



This June 14, 2018 file photo shows bettors waiting to make wagers on sporting events at the Borgata casino in Atlantic City hours after it began accepting sports bets.

Associated Press